MANUAL

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

JULY, 1885.

A PRESIDING ELDER'S PLAN.

In maintaining and increasing an interest in the various benevolent collections ordered by the General Conference to be taken up on every pastoral charge, the presiding elders can be of great service. Many of the pastors are young and inexperienced, and have much to learn concerning the different benevolent societies of the Church. The presiding elders are their official teachers in this as in many other matters. Some of the older pastors it may be also need instruction, and in some cases, perhaps, a gentle stimulation to duty. The presiding elder is the man for this work. In some quarterly conferences there are official members who have for so many years been studying the financial problems connected with their own particular congregation, that they have never wakened to the fact that there are great connectional interests belonging to our denomination. These are men of narrow views, and they need to have their vision broadened. The presiding elder is the Church official whose duty it is to furnish these near-sighted trustees and stewards with ecclesiastical lenses, through which they may take wider views of the great Church to which they belong. He is the man of all others to teach them that a comprehensive benevolence, so far from interfering with the ordinary finances of their particular circuit or station, will actually increase their receipts.

As an illustration of what a faithful presiding elder can do, we give herewith a financial plan adopted by the Rev. John A. B. Wilson, presiding elder of the Salisbury District, Wilmington Conference. This plan has resulted in an increase

of the various collections, and in an intelligent appreciation of the causes represented. Of course, in some of the details there might be a change, according to the circumstances of the district, but the plan in its entirety is well worth considering. Any changes necessary could easily be made when the plan is printed:

WILMINGTON CONFERENCE, M. E. CHURCH,
SALISBURY DISTRICT.

.....188

.....

Dear Brother:

No doubt you have observed, regretfully, as I have done, the meager support given by our District to the connectional interests of the Church.

Last Conference year, Salisbury District, with.....charges, ... pastors, and.....members and probationers, paid the following amounts ONLY, to

Raised the Previous Yr.		Apportioned.		COLLECTIONS.	Paid.		Apportioned this Year.		Requested this Year.	
$	cts.	$	cts.		$	cts.	$	cts.	$	cts.
.....	.....	.....	.....	Bible.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Tract	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Sunday-School Union.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Education.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Conference Education.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Children's Day Fund.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Church Relief.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Church Extension	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Freedmen's Aid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Conference Claimants....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Missions.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Woman's F. M. Society...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

An average per charge of $.....

An average per member of $.....

Your present charge,

.....

with.....members and probationers, contributed of this amount, $.....

Raised the Previous Yr.		Apportioned.		COLLECTIONS.	Paid.		Apportioned this Year.		Requested this Year.	
$	cts.	$	cts.		$	cts.	$	cts.	$	cts.
				Bible						
				Tract						
				Sunday-School Union						
				Education						
				Conference Education						
				Children's Day Fund						
				Church Relief						
				Church Extension						
				Freedmen's Aid						
				Conference Claimants						
				Missions						
				Woman's F. M. Society						
				Total						

Average per member of $.....

There is grave reason to fear that so little is done because we pastors fail to give the necessary information to devise methods, to zealously work them, and to take the collections in season. Often the presentation of these interests is deferred until late in the year, when the pressure of local claims then to be met prevents success with the collections. Sometimes, when reasonably cared for, the interests are insufficiently represented, and persons cannot be expected to pay liberally to a cause the purpose of which is hardly understood by them.

It may occur, also, that the presentation is so apologetic as to destroy confidence, and relieve of the sense of responsibility. We owe no apology to our people for bringing to them these grand opportunities of usefulness and grace. Our collections represent opportunities of blessing the world, and of receiving blessings in return. That which must do good both to giver and receiver needs no apology. I beg leave to commend to you my own plan of taking the collections—a plan adopted in my second charge, and always worked successfully then and since. It consisted in

1. *Disseminating information* concerning each cause to be presented. This can be obtained in tract form for distribution of the secretaries of the various Boards. The facts make good illustrations for sermons also, and topics for private conversation; we may also directly represent the causes to be served by sermons or addresses upon them.

I use all the methods above named for informing the people of the merits of the causes to be aided.

2. *Method of taking the collections.* So combine the whole number as to have one Conference collection for each quarter, or at most two.

During *first quarter*, combine Bible, Tract, Sunday-School Union, Education, Conference Education, Church Relief, and..... After proper explanation of the merits of each, name the amount desired, adding at least ten per cent. for shrinkage—20 per cent. is better—and proceed to cover the amount by subscription taken in the public congregation, using all proper means to get subscriptions from each person present. Name an early date for the payment, and put the list into the hands of one who will faithfully collect it on time. Keep taking the collection until you get the amount.

Church Extension and Freedmen's Aid..... are taken in the same way the second quarter, the collections for Conference claimants the third, and the missionary collection in the early part of the fourth.

Cards might be used instead of subscription papers, if preferred (I never tried them), but on no account should the collections be combined into a lesser number than four.

This method, energetically worked, will, I doubt not, secure from your charge, this first quarter, for

Bible..... $.....
Tract..... $.....
Sunday-School Union..... $.....
Education..... $.....
Conference Education..... $.....
Church Relief..... $.....

Total..... $.....

You, perhaps, discover that a few of the sums named are in advance of the apportionments.

I have always found it well in my own work to regard the apportionments as points of departure, rather than limitation, to benevolence and effort. In this way can we advance the usefulness of our churches and their ability, for there is a scattering which tendeth to increase, and a withholding which tendeth to poverty.

I beg leave to suggest that these collections be taken during the month of....., that so much of the work of the year may be well done thus early, and out of the way of other interests.

My own uniform experience and observation has been that severely pressing all our connectional interests results well for the claims so pressed. More, it is educational, and increases the liberality of our people for their local expenses.

I trust that large success may attend your efforts for these interests, and that your charge may be named among the advancing ones this year. Hoping, also, that if you have no better method of taking the collections, you will adopt the one here given, I am

Your brother and fellow-helper to the truth,

JOHN A. B. WILSON.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

DIRECTORY.

PROPER CORPORATE NAME: "THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

OFFICE: MISSION ROOMS, No. 805 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

CHARTER, ACTS OF INCORPORATION, ETC.—See last Annual Report.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE meets in November each year in the Mission Rooms, No. 805 Broadway, New York.

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Mission Rooms.

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES, *Rev. J. M. Reid, D.D.*, and *Rev. C. C. McCabe, D.D.*, have charge of all the correspondence of the Society. All communications should be addressed to them at the Mission Rooms, 805 Broadway, New York.

THE RECORDING SECRETARY, *Rev. J. N. FitzGerald, D.D.*, has charge of all the records of Committees, of the Board, and of the Society. He also certifies to the Treasurer, or to the Auditing Committee, as the case may require, all moneys granted or expenditures authorized in pursuance of the action of the Board.

THE TREASURER, *J. M. Phillips, Esq.*, has charge of all the funds of the Society, as his title indicates. All remittances should be made to his order by draft on New York or Post-office Order on New York, and should be inclosed to the Corresponding Secretaries as above directed.

THE ASSISTANT TREASURER, *Rev. Earl Cranston, D.D.*, resides at Cincinnati, O., and acts for the Treasurer in that part of the country.

IN MAKING BEQUESTS the following form should be observed:

I give and bequeath to the "MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York, the sum of ..... ; and the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors for the same.

IN DEVISES OF LAND observe the following:

I give and devise to the "MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York, the following lands and premises:

.....

.....

to have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances thereto, to the said Society, its successors and assigns forever.

It is particularly requested that all persons making Bequests and Devises to this Society, or knowing that they have been made, should notify the Corresponding Secretaries of the same at the Mission Rooms, and, if practicable, to inclose a copy of the will, that the wishes of the testator may be known and our rights protected.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE in the shape of tracts, leaflets, concert exercises, and letters to children should be ordered from this office, also supplies for collecting purposes.

OUR MISSIONARY PERIODICALS.

The Gospel in All Lands, *The Missionary World*, and *The Little Missionary*, edited and published by the Rev. Eugene R. Smith, have been purchased by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and will hereafter be published in its interests and for its benefit.

The Rev. Eugene R. Smith has been elected Editor of Missionary Literature for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with his office at the Mission Rooms, 805 Broadway, New York.

The Gospel in All Lands is the largest and most complete of all the missionary monthlies, and will give the fullest information respecting the mission work of our own Church, as well as an account of what is being done by others. This is a forty-eight-page monthly; 25 cents a month, $2 a year.

The Missionary World is intended for young people, and *The Little Missionary* for children. They are specially adapted to the young, and should have a large circulation in our Sunday-schools, mission bands and circles.

The Missionary World, eight pages monthly, one copy, 25 cents a year; ten copies to one address, $1 50 a year; twenty copies and over to one address, each 12 cents a year—to different addresses, each 20 cents a year. Postage additional for New York city or foreign subscribers.

The Little Missionary, four pages monthly; one copy, 25 cents a year; ten copies to one address, 75 cents a year; twenty copies and over to one address, each 6 cents a year—to different addresses, each 15 cents a year. Postage additional for New York city or foreign subscribers.

The above terms are in advance. Subscriptions received for three or more months at yearly rates. All periodicals stopped at close of subscription, and none sent for more than one month without the money.

The money in every case must accompany the order, and be sent direct to *The Gospel in All Lands*, Mission Rooms 805 Broadway, New York. Do not direct to the Book Agents, nor to the Missionary Secretaries.

Specimen copies will be sent free. Special terms given to our preachers.

With an experienced editor, who is a member and minister of our Church, and with periodicals belonging to us which are so well calculated to instruct and enthuse our people, we urge all our preachers to earnest effort in extending their circulation.

J. M. REID.
C. C. M'CABE.

Mission Rooms, 805 Broadway, N. Y., May 15, 1885.

CLUB RATES OF "THE GOSPEL IN ALL LANDS."

Two copies, each, $1 75 a year.
Three to eight copies, each $1 50 a year.
Ten copies and over, each $1 25 a year.

In subscriptions for two or more copies at the above rates, the magazine can be sent to different addresses, and to different post-offices, but all of the subscriptions must be forwarded at the same time. The postage is an additional charge for New York city or foreign subscribers.

SPECIAL TERMS TO METHODIST PREACHERS.

The Gospel in All Lands will be sent postage paid for *one dollar* to any itinerant preacher of any Methodist Church in the United States or Canada, the subscription commencing with the month the money is received. (Postage additional for New York city.)

The Gospel in All Lands will be sent postage paid for five English shillings, or $1 25, to any itinerant preacher of any Methodist Church in the world, or any Methodist missionary, at any post-office in the postal union beyond the United States and Canada.

Twenty-five cents will be given to a Methodist preacher for every subscriber to *The Gospel in All Lands* (whether at single or club rates), except for subscriptions of Methodist preachers or missionaries, or Sunday-schools.

Fifteen per cent. discount given a Methodist preacher on new subscriptions to *The Missionary World* and *The Little Missionary*, and five per cent. on renewals.

SPECIAL OFFER TO SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Until December 1, 1885, subscriptions for *The Gospel in All Lands* will be received from Sunday-schools, or Sunday-school or Church Missionary Societies at the following rate:

Ten copies and over to the address of one person, each *one dollar* a year.

This includes postage except for subscriptions in New York city or foreign lands, in which case the delivery or postage is an additional charge.

The order must be sent by the superintendent or secretary of the Sunday-school, or the president or secretary of the Missionary Society, direct to *The Gospel in All Lands*, Mission Rooms, 805 Broadway, New York.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE.

Twenty years ago the writer picked up a newspaper in a cabin in the extreme South, published and edited in Philadelphia by colored men, which contained an article advising the freedmen who had so recently been liberated. It said:

"Knowledge is power; greenbacks are powerful. Get knowledge, but above all things get greenbacks."

Many have found by experience that it took knowledge to get greenbacks.

The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church is needing much more money than it is receiving. The workers in the Mission Field are urging that re-enforcements be sent to enter new openings that are full of encouragement, and where, in many instances, the natives are themselves asking for those who will give them the bread of life.

The Church has the means, and we believe possesses the willingness, to greatly increase its contributions for the work abroad, when it sees that its offerings are needed. The money will not come for the asking. Those who are best able to give are accustomed to seeking the best investment for their money. In giving for missions they wish to know what is needed and where most needed. This information cannot be obtained from the letters of one missionary, or a survey of one mission field.

The greatness of the work and the importance and pressing nature of its claims can best be understood by their frequent presentation, and that in such a manner as will place the whole subject in the mind and upon the heart of every Christian.

We know of no better way to do this than through Periodicals specially devoted to the subject, and furnished at such a price as will insure their circulation and reading.

What we have done so far has not been worthy of our means and opportunities, and the published records give us even a much lower place than we deserve because so little has been known of the work. Our missionaries have been true, and they have accomplished much good, but the Acts of these Apostles have been furnished the Church in fragments through the columns of our weekly press, or lie buried in the correspondence of our Mission Rooms. Had these been brought before the Church in a compact form, the Missionary Spirit would have burned with a deeper intensity and a more enduring flame. One of our missionaries writes us, "Thank God for the Rising Day!"

The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church is endeavoring, as never before, to meet the wants of the Church in this direction, and it asks the co-operation of all its preachers in securing the introduction of its periodicals into every family belonging to the Church.

We have found it true that what costs us nothing we seldom esteem. To give away missionary periodicals money must be used that would otherwise be expended in the foreign field, and the literature thus scattered is often unread.

It is proposed to send out no free copies of our periodicals, and we claim for the Church they represent the enlightenment that will gladly welcome the information given, and as gladly pay the amount required that they may be self-supporting.

There is enough constantly occurring in our missions that ought to be preserved in a permanent form, the knowledge of which will inspire us to greater devotion and liberality, and through which the future historian of the Church shall be able to show what part we took in the evangelizing work of the 19th century.—*The Gospel in All Lands.*

MISSIONARY INDEX.

THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 2. Progress of Protestant Missions in the Dark Continent. Henry Frederic Reddall.
" " Pen and Ink Pictures of our Indian Native Preachers. Rev. B. H. Badley.
" " An Appeal from the South. Rev. R. J. Cooke.
" " The Great Want of Chapels in the Cities of Hamburg, Stuttgart, Strasburg, and Berne. Rev. C. H. Doering.
" " Need of American Indians. Mrs. H. C. M'Cabe.
" " An Excellent Work. Mrs. J. F. Willing.
" 9. New Mexico Mission. S. W. Thornton.
" 30. Notes from our Indian Field. Bishop Hurst.
" " William Taylor's Work in South America. I. H. La Fetra.
" " Our Farthest Eastern Outpost. J. M. Thoburn.
May 14. Letter from Bishop Taylor.
" 28. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Our Church.
June 4. Pauline Methods. (Ed.)
" " The Pauline Method. Rev. J. B. Hamilton.
" " A Letter from Bombay to "The Christian Advocate." J. S. Stone, M.D.

NORTHERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 2. Our German Missions. Mrs. J. H. M'Carty.
" " That Missionary Million.
" " Medical Work in Foochow.
" 9. An Hour in a Japanese Class-meeting. Rev. W. C. Kitchin.
" 16. Returned Missionaries. C. C. M'Cabe.
" 23. The Sixty-sixth Missionary Report.
" " Missionary Conference at Niagara Falls.
" 30. A Hideous Idol Becomes a Baptismal Font.
" " True Heroism—Self-Support.
" " The Faith that Conquers.
" " The Best of All is, God is with Us.
May 7. Two Pictures by Stanley.
" " International Missionary Union.
" 14. Stimulants to Missionary Zeal.
" " A Million for Missions. C. C. M'Cabe.
" " Herat, and the Evangelization of Half of Asia.
" " Jews in Rome.
" 21. The Oudh Pentecost.
" 28. The Status of Christianity in Japan. Rev. J. O. Spencer.
" " Missionary Life in North-west Canada.
" " The Fifteenth Power in Africa.
" " Help the India Theological Seminary. T. J. Scott, D.D.
June 4. Christian Medical School in Japan.
" " A Note from West China.
" 11. Literature in Foreign Missions.

NORTH-WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 8. Work to be Done. Bishop W. F. Mallalieu.
" 15. Protestant Missions Among Roman Catholics. Rev. D. Murphy, Ph.D.
April 22. China's Attitude. W. W. Woodall.
" 29. Misrikh Mela. Rev. J. C. Lawson.
May 6. Missionary Motives and Means.
" " Just a Word or Two. Rev. D. E. Alden.
" " Missionary Concerts. A. C. Rawls.
" " Woman's Home Missionary Society in Mississippi.
" " Mission Progress.
" 13. The Bible in India.
" " An African's Prayer.
" " A Magical Magic Lantern.
" 20. New Missionary Periodical.
June 3. An Indian Pentecost. Rev. J. C. Lawson, Seetapore, India.
" " Help the India Seminary. Rev. T. J. Scott.
" " The Black Hills Mission. Rev. W. A. Atwater.
" " From Bishop Taylor's Party.

PITTSBURG CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 9. A Law unto Itself. J. W. Hamilton.
May 14. An Unfortunate Controversy. Rev. J. M. Thoburn.
" 21. Missionary Contributions — Two Things.
" " A Million for Missions—The Situation. C. C. M'Cabe.
June 4. The Poverty of India. J. M. Thoburn.
" 11. Hold the Ropes. Rev. J. W. Hamilton.
" " Help the India Theological Seminary. T. J. Scott.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 1. New Mexico Mission. Rev. S. W. Thornton.
" " The Foes We Face in Utah.
" 15. Notes from Foochow, China. Rev. J. H. Worley.
" " Why did William Taylor Ask the Book Committee for a Salary? J. W. Hamilton.
" " Work to be Done. Bishop W. F. Mallalieu.
" " West China Mission. Geo. B. Crews.
" 22. Cyphone's Conversion. Rev. Joel A. Smith.
" " The Objection of Novelty to Home Missions among Roman Catholics. Rev. D. Murphy, D.D.
" " Letter from China. Rev. J. H. Worley.
" 29. India Methodism. Rev. B. H. Badley.
" " Bishop Taylor and the Missionary Episcopate.
May 6. Your Theological Seminary in India. T. J. Scott.
" " Novel Way of Raising Missionary Money.
" " Dr. Murphy and Missions to the Roman Catholics. Rev. J. W. Wright.
" 20. A Voice from China. Geo. B. Crews, M.D.
" " A Million for Missions—The Situation. C. C. M'Cabe.
" 27. The New Mexico Spanish Mission. Thos. Harwood.
June 3. "One Million for Missions."
" 10. The Reformation in the Argentine Republic.

CHRISTIAN STANDARD.

May 9. Bishop Taylor's Company.
" 23. Letters from Bishop Taylor.
" " A Million for Missions. Chaplain M'Cabe.
" 30. The Great Congo Valley. (Foreign Missionary.)
" " The Taylor Band (Letters).
June 6. The Taylor Band (Letters).
" 13. The Taylor Band (Letters).

WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

April 15. Missionary Notes from Oudh, India. Rev. T. S. Johnson.
" 29. Woman and the Indian Question. Mrs. W. A. Ingham.
" " The Missionary Spirit in the School. (James H. Kellogg, in The Study.)
May 13. A Million for Missions.
" " Missionary Notes from Oudh, India. T. S. Johnson.
" " The Pauline Plan. C. King.
" 27. A Wonder in India.
June 3. Where is the Eurasian Conference? J. M. Thoburn, D.D.
" 10. Help the India Theological Seminary. T. J. Scott.

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Mar. 25. Bishop Taylor in his new Field. (Buffalo Christian Ad.)
April 8. Portland Chinese Mission. (Pacific Christian Ad.)
" 22. Our Missions. C. V. A.
" 29. Why did William Taylor Ask the Book Committee for a Salary? Rev. J. W. Hamilton.
" " Letter from M. C. Harris, Tokio, Japan.
" " The Japanese Gospel Society.
May 6. That "Million for Missions."
" 20. Bishop Taylor in Africa.
" " Japanese Gospel Society.
" 27. A Million for Missions—The Situation. C. C. M'Cabe.
" " Blessing upon the Japanese Gospel Society. Sho Nemoto.
June 3. The Faith That Conquers.

ZION'S HERALD.

April 22. New York Letter—W. H. M. Society. R. Wheatley.
May 20. A Million for Missions—The Situation. C. C. M'Cabe.
June 3. The Reaping Commenced. Rev. J. E. Scott.
" " Letter from Bulgaria. H. Dimitroff.
" 10. The Chinese in New York City. A. Copeland.
June 10. Divide the Missionary Treasury. Rev. E. C. Bass, D.D.
" " Twenty Years' of Progress in the North India Conference. Rev. James Mudge.
" " Charges Against Native Preachers. Ram Chandra Bose.
" " A Missionary Camp-meeting. Rev. J. E. Scott.
" " Only a Little Explanation. Rev. J. W. Butler.

BALTIMORE METHODIST.

April 11. How They Did It. C. C. M'Cabe, D.D.
" " Missionary Letters.
" 18. Japan Conference.
May 2. Bishop Taylor's Status.
" " Letter from Bro. Rudisill, Madras, India.
" 9. Missionary Bishop Taylor.
June 5. India Theological Seminary. T. J. Scott.

PHILADELPHIA METHODIST.

April 11. The Missionary Hymn.
" " Helping to be a Missionary at Home. Rev. E. A. Rand.
" " Our Missionary Society.
" 25. Conference Missionary Sermon. Rev. A. Swindells.
May 9. Letter from Bishop Taylor.
" " One Million for Missions.
June 6. News from Africa.
" " A Million for Missions. C. C. M'Cabe.
" " News from Japan.
" 13. Letter from Japan. I. H. Correll.
" " Help the India Theological Seminary. T. J. Scott.

CHRISTIAN APOLOGIST.

April 6. The Last Martyr of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. R. Gomez.
" 13. My Life. (Bremen Evangelist.)
" 20. Liberia.
" " Dr. Somerville in Asia Minor.
" " Missions in Japan.
" 27. Something about Hong-Kong. Bishop J. J. Esher.
May 4. Letter from Bishop Taylor.
" " Africa.
" 11. Italy.
" " What Darwin Writes about Tahiti.
" 18. The Mission to the Indians.
" " The Blessing of Mission Work.
" 25. The Evangelization of the World.
" " From Siam.
" " A Million for Missions.
" " A New Step Forward.
June 1. The Missionary Convention in Cincinnati.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

INDIA.

THE Central Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in India, which was organized in accordance with the ordinance of the late General Conference,* held its first session in Bareilly, January 13 and 14, 1885. Having supervision of the educational and publishing interests of the several Annual Conferences and missions in India, it appointed a committee on Sunday-school work. We take pleasure in presenting their report in full, and doubt not it will be read with great interest:

ON SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

It gives us great pleasure to report the Sunday-school statistics of our Church in India, which are as follows:

	North India.	South India.	Total.
Sunday-schools	479	55	534
Officers and teachers	646	319	965
Scholars	18,069	2,882	20,951

When we remember that ten years ago we had in all India less than 6,000 Sunday-school scholars, we can but rejoice that God has so wonderfully blessed us and given us access to the hearts of the children of India.

Of the 18,069 pupils in North India no less than 13,705 are heathen and Mohammedan children who are thus being reached by the helpful influence of the Gospel.

We recognize, and would impress upon the minds of all our members, the inviting opportunity set before us in this department of Christian work. In both English and native churches this field presents itself; while all about us are thousands of heathen children waiting to be told of the Saviour of the world. As Methodists, ever remembering the policy of our Church to carefully train and systematically teach the children in our congregations, and to attract to the Sunday-school the poor, neglected, and untaught children in town and city, we would earnestly exhort all our people, English and native, to engage with heart and soul in this blessed work. Every church should do something in carrying on or supporting Sunday-school work among the heathen. We should improve the opportunity before us.

* See Discipline, ¶ 296.

The young Christians should be early inducted into Sunday-school work, and their attention constantly called to its importance. The minister can so exalt the importance of this work that Christian youth will feel it an honor to share in it. Every available person should be utilized. Success in this will depend largely on the zeal and persistence of the minister.

In some of our schools we have the most modern and improved methods; in others the apparatus is of the most simple character. Instead of the carpeted hall you will find the shade of a dilapidated wall. Many of the scholars cannot read, but they slowly memorize some of the great truths of revelation. Elaborate views are very valuable, but the simplest oral instruction for the uneducated must embrace the greater part of our work.

Our whole apparatus for vernacular Sunday-schools is exceedingly limited. For the more advanced schools the Berean Question Book should be published and bound before the year begins. The present series of lessons is not fully adapted to the needs of the greater part of our work. At the present time we need a constant presentation of the great truths connected directly with salvation through Jesus Christ. Our vernacular Church Catechism demands re-editing. This is really our compendium of theology; but the terminology is in many cases beyond the comprehension of the children. This Catechism should be completely memorized by every child in our Sunday-schools.

We need Sunday-school library books. Our press has done somewhat to supply this need, but there is an urgent want for more. Attractive stories filled with a religious spirit are greatly needed. We should indicate the style of work required, and place proper inducements before the persons capable of producing these books.

Sunday-school Institutes and Assemblies should be held annually in various parts of our field. Where, on account of great distances, these cannot be instituted as conference meetings, two or more districts might unite in an Assembly. These Assemblies, here as in America, will lead to greater enthusiasm in Sunday-school work, better preparation for this, and will be helpful in various ways. We hope the day is not far distant when we may have an India Chautauqua.

The committee also recommend the universal observance of Children's Day, on the second Sunday in March, as it is thought this time in India is preferable to June as in America. The success which has attended the inauguration of this happily conceived observance in America may be repeated in our midst, and especially among heathen Sunday-school children we shall be able to introduce many new features to add to the attractiveness of the celebration. Collections should be taken in each Sunday-school on this day in the aid of a fund to be called the "Sunday-school Fund," such fund to be used either by the Conference auxiliary to the Board of Education as directed by each Annual Conference, or, in the absence of such auxiliary, by the Board of Education of the Central Conference, for the assistance of worthy young persons who are being educated as Christian workers.

We also recommend that special services be held in our vernacular Sunday-schools on Easter Sunday. Surely in a land where the millions about us make so much in their peculiar way of the birthdays of their gods and goddesses, shouting their praises in city and hamlet, we should make the most of Christmas and of Easter with a view of more directly calling the attention of the heathen to the life of our blessed Lord. In some stations in North India (especially Budaon) the Easter celebration with floral offerings has become quite popular.

The penny or *kauri* collections, now taken in many native Sunday-schools, should be taken in all these schools. The children enjoy the privilege of casting in these mites, and while the sum received may be trifling, the result will be helpful and will lead to greater giving by and by.

We recommend, for the present at least, that we continue to use the International Lessons three months later than the current lessons in America.

We further recommend the formation of a Sunday-School Union, to be known as "The Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church in India," the object of which shall be to advance the interests, in every possible way, of this department of our work: the officers to consist of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Managers composed of three ministers and three laymen from each Conference; the officers to be elected at each session of the Central Conference.

In accordance with the last recommendation the Conference appointed the following

OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

T. S. Johnson, *President;* I. A. Richards, *Vice-President;* J. M. Thoburn, Jr., *Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.*

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE.—*Clerical Members:* I. A. Richards, J. P. Meik, G. K. Gilder. *Lay Members:* C. Prichard, J. F. Deatker, C. T. Hunter.

NORTH INDIA CONFERENCE.—*Clerical Members:* J. H. Gill, S. Knowles, W. R. Clancy. *Lay Members:* W. H. Gilbert, E. A. Phillips, H. L. Mukerjie.

CHINA.

The first Sunday-school of the Methodist Episcopal Church in China was organized at Foochow, by the Rev. Judson Collins, on Sunday, March 4, 1848. On this occasion, besides singing, the exercises consisted of the repetition of the Lord's Prayer in Chinese and English, and the reading and explana-

tion of the second chapter of Matthew. In the afternoon session the ten commandments were studied. Nine boys had been gathered in from heathen homes to hear for the first time of Jesus.

The last Annual Report of the Missionary Society states that there are now in China 75 Sabbath-schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with more than 2,500 pupils. Of this number, 59 schools and 1,369 pupils are within the bounds of the Foochow Conference.

GERMANY.

The Rev. H. Nuelsen, writing from Bremen May 1, 1885, sends the following report of the various publications issued by our publishing house in Germany during the year 1884 for Sunday-school purposes:

Titles.	Copies.	Pages.
Das Zigeuner Mädchen	2,000	80
Feldblumer	3,000	128
Der Jugendfreund	4,000	64
Der Kindergarten (Parts I–IV)	4,000	64
Drei Monaten unter dem Schnee	3,000	94
Schneeweiss	1,000	56
Rosette S.	2,000	32
Jugendpsalm	3,000	150
Jugendkalender	3,000	32
Weinachts Gespräche	600	96

This makes a total of 24,600 copies, comprising 1,562,600 pages.

Besides these, 13,700 copies of the Sunday-school paper called "Der Kinderfreund" were published weekly, and 1,650 copies of the "Sonntagsschul Magazin" were issued monthly.

Twenty-five libraries, each containing thirty volumes, were presented to poor Sunday-schools.

The edition of "Der Kinderfreund" in this current year is 15,000, and of "Sonntagsschul Magazin," 1,700.

The cause of Sunday-schools continues to increase in the interest the people take, as well as in numbers. Here and there Sunday-school teachers' conventions are held in our work. There is, for example, annually, a gathering of all our Sunday-school teachers in the cantons of Zurich and St. Gallen, Switzerland. At Zurich, April 15, this yearly meeting was held in our spacious chapel. The report says: "It was crowded. Rev. J. Breiter, our minister, acted as president. Reports were read, as well as verbal statements given, from different parts of the canton. Rev. J. Spörri, of Winterthur, delivered an excellent address on 'The

Importance of Sunday-schools for the Promotion of the Kingdom of God.' Rev. H. Mader, of Thalweil, read another paper on the subject of 'Infant Classes.' Then questions suggested by these addresses were discussed. The gathering took a whole day and was considered a good success."

I wish to mention, in conclusion, that also reports of awakening and converting grace among Sunday-school children have reached us. Quite a revival, for instance, took place at Oerlikan Circuit, Zurich. Many children were influenced by the same. The common catechetical hours of the pastor with his children had to be converted into class and prayer meeting on a good many circuits, on account of deep feeling existing among the children.

OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK IN THE SOUTH.

We are pushing our work in this interesting field as far as the means at our disposal will allow. The necessities are great, especially among our colored people. In many places their poverty is such that they cannot buy any thing for their Sunday-schools. A faithful and devoted presiding elder in Louisiana writes: "I am staying in the cabin of a colored man, with not a window in the house. I had supper last night at eight o'clock, and all the light we had came from burning two pine sticks full of pitch."

This same presiding elder tells us of one of the preachers on his district who has a wife and four children to support, and though the people greatly love him, they were able to give him, between February and April, only 95 cents in cash, and $4 60 in provisions. Another of the preachers received but $2 15 during the same time. He has a wife and two children.

This presiding elder stayed for four days in a Negro cabin, which is considered one of the best houses on the circuit. "There was only one tea-cup and saucer on the table, and they were used at each meal by from two to five different persons." He writes further: "The poverty of this people is beyond description. I wish your Board could come down here and go out among our people, and see them in their ignorance and poverty; but I do not expect that, so I shall do the best I can to help on these bruised and crushed children of my Father, my brothers and sisters, to a higher and better life."

We have been doing special work in the South for a number of years. The Rev. J. B. Ford did efficient service in that

field for several years, and more recently the Rev. A. H. Gillett has been our agent there, though his work has also embraced the great West. Brother Gillett has been abundant in labors, as his reports from time to time have shown. He is every-where arousing interest in the work, and as the interest increases the collections will increase. One pastor, for example, after confessing the smallness of his collections in previous years, writes: "Our faithful Sunday-school agent, Brother Gillett, has been with us lately, and his visit proved such a blessing as to stir us up in this matter."

Bishop Mallalieu, who has his residence in New Orleans, has manifested great interest in our Sunday-school work in this field. During April and the early part of May, he held in connection with Brother Gillett a series of Sunday-school Institutes in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. The Bishop had the assistance of the pastors and others in the places where the Institutes were held, and also called out to his help some of the most promising men from other parts of these States.

As a specimen of the amount of labor performed in the time mentioned, we give the programme:

Thursday, April, 2, 7:30 P. M.; Friday, April 3, 2 P. M., Donaldsonville, La.

Friday, April 3, 7:30 P. M., Plaquemine, La.

Saturday, April 4, 7:30 P. M.; Sunday, April 5, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Alexandria, La.

Monday, April 6, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Washington, La.

Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 P. M., New Iberia, La.

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 P. M., Baldwin, La.

Friday, April 10, Houston, Texas. Houston Seminary, 10 A. M.; Mount Vernon Church, 3 P. M.; Trinity Church, 7:30 P. M.

Sunday, April 12, Galveston, Texas. Broadway Church, 10:30 A. M.; Tabernacle Church, 3 P. M.; St. Paul's Church, 7:30 P. M.

Tuesday, April 14, San Antonio, Texas. Pastor W. S. Falkenburg's church, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.; Wednesday, April 15, Pastor Mack Henson's church, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.; Thursday, April 16, Pastor F. Mumme's church, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.

Friday, April 17, 7:30 P. M., Austin, Texas.

Friday, April 17, 7:30 P. M., Palestine, Texas.

Sunday, April 19, Marshall, Texas.

Monday, April 20, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Shreveport, La.

Wednesday, April 22, Fort Worth, Texas.

Thursday, April 23, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Paris, Texas.

Friday, April 24, 7:30 P. M., Clarksville, Texas.
Sunday, April 26, 10:30 A. M., 3 P. M., and 7:30 P. M., Texarkana, Ark.
Monday, April 27, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Washington, Ark.
Tuesday, April 28, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Hot Springs, Ark.
Wednesday, April 29, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.; Thursday, April 30, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Little Rock, Ark.
Friday, May 1, 7:30 P. M., Russellville, Ark.
Sunday, May 3, Fort Smith, Ark.
Monday, May 4, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Siloam Springs.
Tuesday, May 5, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Rogers, Ark.
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 P. M.; Thursday, May 7, 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M., Eureka Springs.

A careful examination of this programme will show that an immense amount of work was crowded into this period of five weeks. That these labors were appreciated and productive of great good we have abundant reason to believe.

Bishop Mallalieu threw himself into this work with his accustomed energy. He writes in reference to it: "O what needs! what needs every day records! I hope you will stir the Church up to give more for our Sunday-School Union."

We are quite sure that if the Church could only see the field as the faithful laborers see it we should never be in need of funds.

REPORT OF THE AGENT.

The Rev. A. H. Gillett, Agent for the South and West, presented the following report at the recent meeting of the Board:

By the blessing of God, and through the valuable assistance and wise counsels of Bishop W. F. Mallalieu and the presiding elders and pastors of the section visited, an immense amount of work has been done, and, as I trust, good realized. Immediately after the close of the Florida Chautauqua, in company with the Rev. A. A. Wright, I made a visit to the mountain region of North Georgia. At Ellijay, the site of a seminary under the control of our Church, we held a two-days' institute, at which there was a respectable attendance of preachers and other workers, one pastor walking from Dalton, about forty miles, in order to be there. The region is an interesting one, mountainous and rugged, but with many rich and fertile valleys and fine table-lands, which are occupied by a class of industrious and hardy settlers. Until recently they have been shut away from the outside world by lack of transportation facilities, so that the produce raised brought them little. They are therefore poor. The completion of a railroad within a year past to Ellijay makes it reasonably cer-

tain that there will be easier times in all this region. The circuits are large, the church buildings poor, the preachers overworked and underpaid, if, indeed, it can be said they are paid at all.

The Sunday-schools are well attended in proportion to the membership of the churches, but need almost every thing and are able to buy nothing. One presiding elder gave me a list of nineteen schools on his district none of which had Bibles.*

Our white work in the mountains and mining districts would be greatly stimulated and strengthened by larger grants of lesson literature and papers. On the way to Ellijay a conference was held with the students of Clark University, and such of the ministers and presiding elders as could on short notice be brought together.

From Ellijay I went direct to New Orleans, where I met Bishop Mallalieu. We began a vigorous campaign in the city, and while holding institute sessions in all our nineteen churches, and then special meetings of pastors and superintendents for normal work, planned the details of an extensive trip through Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. Where the route was determined and places of meeting settled, circular letters were sent to presiding elders and pastors of the Conferences within the bounds of which we expected to hold institutes. Every interest of our work was considered and the plan arranged so as to reach white (English, German, and Scandinavian) and colored work. The scheme as laid out was executed, except that the heavy storms prevented us from reaching three points in Texas; but others were added, so that we really accomplished more than we intended. All the meetings were well attended, and in many instances the churches were literally packed. The work was varied, as of course it must be under such circumstances, but the distinctive work of the Sunday-school was emphasized at every gathering after the meeting was turned into an evangelistic line, and often our hearts were gladdened by the sight of from twenty to sixty people around the altar asking for pardon. In some instances revivals followed; one pastor writes of one hundred and forty conversions resulting. Letters from presiding elders and pastors assure me that the membership of all our schools will be greatly increased. The series of meetings closed at Eureka Springs, Arkansas. During the trip, which lasted forty-two days, we held services in sixty-six different buildings, and conducted altogether ninety-two different services, these resulting, as we believe, in the conversion of not less than six hundred souls.

Through all this trip one thing kept forcing itself on my attention; namely, *Need, Need.* The people are destitute, and struggling heroically to erect the plainest kind of church buildings, and supply themselves with preaching. They need books and papers for their children, but are unable to buy them. There is no field that will pay such large returns on the investment in ten years as this one if we provide for it liberally now.

* These schools have since been supplied from the grant of Bibles and Testaments made to our Union by the American Bible Society.

It needs thorough and systematic visitation in the interest of Church and Sunday-school work. It needs generous supplies of wholesome literature, without which the young will be exposed to the untold perils of vicious and sensational literature, which is offered at every street-corner, and almost thrust into every home. May God help us to plan so wisely and generously that this whole South-land may be saved to Christ and defended from the perils which now threaten it!

GOOD TIDINGS DAY.

THE third Sunday in October of each year has been made by the authorities "Good Tidings Day," which means Sunday-School Union and Tract Society Day for the entire Methodist Episcopal Church throughout the world. "Children's Day" in June has been thought by many of our Sunday-school workers and children to be the Sunday-School Union Day. This is a great mistake. "Children's Day" belongs to the Board of Education, and the collections on that day are for the benefit of that Board and the furtherance of its work. The "Sunday-School Union" of the Church, and the "Tract Society," both of which are doing a great work for children of every age and grade, have decided through their proper Boards upon a day which shall be observed throughout the Church as Memorial Day of the "Sunday-School Union" and "Tract Society." It will be the GOOD TIDINGS DAY of the year for Sunday-school children and their teachers. Coming in October it will be HARVEST DAY. Coming at the close of the summer season it will be MEMORIAL DAY. Coming in the heart of autumn it will be our AUTUMNAL DAY. Remembering the Gospel, which it is the mission of the Sunday-school and of the Tract Society by living teacher and printed page to promote, it will be GOOD TIDINGS DAY.

Therefore, let the coming great day of the year for Sunday-school scholars of the Methodist Episcopal Church be widely heralded; that every minister put down on his calendar GOOD TIDINGS DAY; that every superintendent may resolve properly to observe GOOD TIDINGS DAY; that every Sunday-school teacher may prepare his class to rejoice in and prepare for GOOD TIDINGS DAY; that every pupil, from the tiniest member of the infant class to the most wise and venerable of the

Bible class, may welcome with shout of gladness GOOD TIDINGS DAY!

New songs, new music, new responsive services, are now in process of preparation to give peculiar attractiveness and usefulness to GOOD TIDINGS DAY. Due notice will be given in the Church papers as to when and how these "services" may be obtained.

A NEW AGENT IN THE FIELD.

For some months past the conviction has deepened that for the more thorough prosecution of the work of the Sunday-School Union and of the Tract Society, an additional agent would be required. The attention of the two Boards having been called to this subject, a committee was appointed from each Board to consider it. This joint committee, after due consideration, recommended to the two Boards the appointment of a special agent for the West and North-west, to develop our Sunday-school work in that portion of our field, and to increase an interest in the work of the Tract Society.

The report of this joint committee was presented first to the Tract Board at its June meeting, and afterward to the Board of the Sunday-School Union. The report, after a consideration by both Boards, was adopted by them.

On the recommendation of the joint committee the two Boards agreed in appointing to this agency the Rev. J. C. W. Coxe, D.D., of the Iowa Conference. Dr. Coxe has been long and favorably known in the West as a diligent and faithful minister, and we doubt not that his labors will prove greatly successful in his new field.

This arrangement will give to the Rev. A. H. Gillett the opportunity to bestow more especial labor on our great and growing Sunday-school work in the South.

Let the Church pray earnestly for the success of both these brethren in the special work to which they are called.

TRACT SOCIETY.

INDIA.

Publications of the Last Year.

We have received a report of the issues of our Mission Press in Lucknow, from which it appears that the following books and tracts were published during the year 1884:

Titles.	Copies.	Pages.
Commentary on Luke and John, Roman Urdu.	500	400
Hymn Book, Roman Urdu	5,000	228
Science of Logic, Lithographic Urdu	500	192
Parable of Four Formers, Lithographic Urdu.	1,000	8
Life of Mahbub Khan, Lithographic Urdu	1,000	16
Treasure of Bible Knowledge	2,500	8
Tract in Urdu	1,000	32
Tract in Hindi	1,000	8
Wages of Sin	1,000	16
Commentary on Exodus	500	56
Catechism	1,000	8
The New Birth	1,000	24
The Truth of the Bible	1,000	87
Muquaddas Kitāb Ká Ahwal	1,000	118

These make a total of 18,000 volumes, large and small, containing, in all, 1,621,000 pages.

The Central Board of Publication.

The Central Conference, which was organized according to the plan set forth in our Discipline, ¶ 296, met in Bareilly in January last, and as a part of its work organized a "Central Board of Publication." We at first thought of condensing the plan of its working as adopted by the Conference, but have concluded to give it all and let it speak for itself. We the more readily make room for it as but few of our readers will see it in the Minutes of the Conference. It is an interesting historical document, and shows the position which the press occupies in our mission work in India:

1. For the prosecution of our work of publication of books, tracts, and periodicals, there shall be a Board of Publication of the Methodist Episcopal Church in India.

2. The principal publishing houses of this Board shall be established at Lucknow and Calcutta, and there shall be branches and depositories at such other places as the Central Conference may from time to time determine.

3. The Central Conference shall elect a Book Committee, consisting of three members from each of the Annual Conferences represented, and three from Lucknow or vicinity, to be known as the local sub-committee of Lucknow, and three from Calcutta or vicinity, to be known as the local sub-committee of Calcutta, which said committee shall form the Board of Publication. The Book Committee shall, during the interval of the Central Conference, have power to fill vacancies occurring in its body. The members of this committee shall be elected for four years, but in such a manner that one half shall be elected at each biennial session of the Conference. Such committee shall have the general supervision of the publishing interests of the Church in India, examine carefully into their condition, and make reports of the same to the Annual Conferences and to the Central Conference; and shall have full power to close all depositories and periodicals when the committee believes the interests of the Church and the Central Board of Education demand it. Said action shall, however, not be taken except by a two-thirds vote of the committee, due notice of such contemplated action having been given the Book Agents. And the committee shall also have the power to order expenses curtailed in any department of publication when it deems it necessary for the welfare of the Church and publication. When such action as above specified shall have been taken by said Book Committee, notice shall forthwith be given to the agents, who shall proceed at once to carry out the instructions of the committee. The Book Agents are authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Book Committee, officially given in committee assembled, to sell any real estate, other than that belonging to the Missionary Society, when it may be deemed best for the interest of the Church and Board of Publication. The committee shall also attend to all matters referred to it by the agents or editors for its action or counsel.

4. Either of the local sub-committees shall have power to suspend an agent or editor for cause to them sufficient, and a time shall be fixed at as early a day as practicable for the investigation of the official conduct of the agent or editor—due notice of which shall be given by the chairman of the Book Committee to the Bishop in charge of India, requesting him to preside at the investigation, and to the presiding elders of the Conference to which the accused agent or editor may belong, who, should the Bishop be absent, shall select one of their number to be present and preside at the investigation, which shall be before the six members of the Book Committee who are not members of the local sub-committees —two thirds of whom may remove said agent or editor from office in the interval of the Central Conference. And in case a vacancy occurs in any of the agencies or editorial departments authorized by the Central Conference, it shall be the duty of the Book Committee as soon as practicable to provide for such vacancies until the next Central Conference.

5. The local sub-committees shall meet monthly at their respective publishing houses to examine into all the transactions of the month preceding. They shall keep a record of their proceedings to be presented to the Book Committee at its annual meeting; they shall arrange for a semi-annual audit of the books of the house, and count the sale of personal property except copyright.

6. The annual meeting of the Book Committee shall be held alternately at Lucknow and Calcutta at the call of the chairman, or at such time as the Book Committee may itself elect. Special meetings may be convened by the chairman at any time on a written request of a majority of the members. Notice of the time and place of the Calcutta monthly meetings shall be given to the other members of the Book Committee within the bounds of the South India Conference, and of the Lucknow meeting to the members of the Book Committee in the North India Conference, and any member may be present and act with the local committee of his Conference.

7. The Central Conference shall, biennially, elect two agents for the publishing houses in Lucknow and Calcutta, who shall have authority, and whose duty it shall be, under the supervision of the Book Committee, to regulate the publications and all other parts of the business of the concern, except what belongs to the editorial departments, in such manner as the state of the finances will admit, and the interests of the Church may require; and who, if chosen from among the traveling preachers, shall be members of such Annual Conferences as they may, with the approbation of the Bishop, select.

8. It shall be the duty of the agents at both publishing houses to publish such books, tracts, periodicals, etc., as are ordered or recommended by the Central Conference; also, to publish such as are recommended by the Book Committee, and approved by the book editors; and they may reprint any book or tract which has been once approved and published by us, when, in their judgment and that of the book editors, the same ought to be reprinted; and they may publish any new work which the book editor and local sub-committee of the publishing house concerned may approve.

9. The agents at each publishing house shall keep a separate account with each department of business, and with each periodical published under their supervision; and they shall set forth in their reports to the Annual Conferences and to the Central Conference the amount of sales, receipts, and expenditures for books, periodicals, and depositories under their control, with whatever profits or losses may have accrued on each. They shall furnish to the local sub-committee designated above, at each of its monthly meetings, a full and satisfactory statement of the transactions of the preceding month; and if the local sub-committee shall so require, furnish for examination vouchers for all payments made during the period specified; and they shall give to the said sub-committee at each of the monthly meetings every possible means and facility for a full and intelligent understanding of all the business transactions of the publishing houses.

10. The agents shall annually take an account of stock both at Lucknow

and Calcutta, including in their inventory all the property and assets of the respective publishing houses, at their estimated cash value, except real estate, which shall have a value estimated by the Book Committee at the beginning of each quadrennium, which shall not be changed during the quadrennium except by the necessary changes caused by the purchase or sale, improvement or destruction, of real estate; together with a full and detailed statement of all their liabilities, profits, and losses; and they shall always hand over to their successors in office such a statement of stock, property, assets, and liabilities as shall be approved and certified by the Book Committee.

11. The Book Agents are required to give their undivided attention to the duties of their respective positions, and to require of their employees the faithful discharge of the work assigned them; and they shall in no way whatever use the publishing house under their charge for their private advantage.

12. There shall be elected by the Central Conference, to serve for two years, the following editors: The editor of the "Indian Witness" (English), the editor of the "Indian Star" (Roman Urdu), the editor of the Sunday-school papers and lessons, and two book editors—one for each publishing house.

13. The agents, the members of the Book Committee, and the editors above designated, shall be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

14. The Board of Publication is hereby authorized and instructed to register under the Charitable Association Act, No. XXI—1860.

In accordance with the above plan the following persons were elected members of the BOOK COMMITTEE:

North India Conference: T. S. Johnson, A. H. Pirie, A. J. Maxwell, J. W. Waugh, H. Mansell, E. W. Parker.

The first three are local sub-committee of Lucknow.

South India Conference: E. M. Lewis, William Ross, J. M. Thoburn, Jr., J. M. Thoburn, C. P. Hard, Dennis Osborne.

The first three are local sub-committee of Calcutta.

BOOK AGENTS: T. Craven and W. E. Robbins.

EDITORS: J. M. Thoburn, "Indian Witness;" B. H. Badley, "Kaukab-i-Hind;" J. W. Waugh, Sunday-school Publications; J. H. Messmore and J. M. Thoburn, Editors of Books.

We wait with great interest the issue of this experiment, and trust it may result as favorably as its most sanguine supporters could wish.

GERMANY.

A letter from the Rev. H. Nuelsen, Bremen, May 1, 1885, incloses a list of the tracts printed at our Tract House during the year 1884. From this list we find that 119 different tracts were issued last year, having a total of 2,520,000 pages.

DOMESTIC.

Among the Mormons.

For several years past a small appropriation has been made for distributing our Norwegian paper among the Mormons who read that language. The following letter from the Rev. Martinus Nelson, pastor of the Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, will give some idea of the work that is done:

"Den Christelige Talsmand" is doing a good work for us in the Territory, and I don't see how we could get along without it. The Mormons, as a class, are not great readers, and many are too poor to take a paper. The leaders, of course, take one or more papers and convey the news to others, and so on. Consequently, the news becomes very much one-sided. Then, again, a good Mormon will not subscribe for a Gentile or Christian paper, even if he is able to do it, and some are fanatical enough to refuse to read such a paper if it is donated to them. But, generally, Mormons will read newspapers if they can get hold of them, and wherever our paper goes it makes an inroad on Mormonism, taking away some of the prejudice and bitter feeling toward our missionaries, and aiding in opening homes and hearts for us.

Last summer I met a stranger on a train and entered into conversation with him. He was a Scandinavian, and I found out that he lived in a large Scandinavian settlement, a town called Santaquiro, about seventy-five miles south of Salt Lake City. Then I asked him if he had ever seen our paper, "Den Christelige Talsmand," and he said that he had heard a good deal about it, and had also seen a few copies of it. I offered to send it to him if he would agree to read it. He promised to do that, and he kept his promise. That paper has gone from house to house in the town. Something over a month ago I visited the place and preached to a large congregation. Since then a Scandinavian Methodist mission has been established there, and last week the new missionary arrived. A card just received from him states that he had two meetings last Sunday, and the congregation in the evening numbered over a hundred.

Several of the brethren in the English work get copies for free distribution, and they write that they are making good use of them in their visits among the Scandinavians.

An Energetic Presiding Elder.

Some of our presiding elders add to their numerous duties the office of tract distributer. There is one of this sort in Texas, the Rev. J. R. Wolf, of the Fort Worth District, Austin Conference. A special grant of tracts was sent him several months ago, not to be given to his preachers, but for his

personal distribution. We give an extract from his letter acknowledging the receipt of the package:

The donation of tracts granted me came to hand this day. I thank God, who put it into the hearts of men to contribute money to print these tracts; and, also, that he put it into the hearts of the Board of Managers to make me this grant. I have not always time, and in many instances not opportunity, to discuss these subjects with people at length, and so, after fairly opening the matter and arousing interest, I just say, "Now, here is a little book, or tract, that throws much light upon this subject; will you read it?" and I have found much good come of it. The tract, "The Church in the House," has often brought me the news, "We have begun family worship." J. C. Fowler's "Counsels to Converts" is a most excellent tract for new converts; it has accomplished much good. With this supply of tracts I feel pretty well furnished with "sharp-shooters" for the next six months. I shall try to make them do execution.

A Working Tract Committee.

In this particular instance it is only a committee of one, but it is a working committee, and a committee of one who will work is better than a large committee who do no work. This Tract Committee is connected with the Quarterly Conference of the Bristol Charge, on the Goshen District, of the North Indiana Conference. His pastor, the Rev. J. M. Stone, has kindly sent us a report made by him:

During the past Conference year (1884–5), I have distributed over four thousand pages of tracts in four and eight page and single leaflets, also distributing a few twelve and sixteen page tracts.

I make it a point to read all the tracts, that I may know their contents before distributing, as the farmer looks to the quality of his seed before he casts it into the ground. I have heard a preacher in a school-house in the country say to a congregation, "I have here some tracts, you can distribute them among yourselves," and he would then send them flying through the air into the midst of the people—"catch who can." I thought it was something like his preaching.

It is my endeavor to make the tracts spread out so that a great many may have the benefit of them. A few persons have objected to take them. One man refused to take them for two or three years, but last year I told him "they were better than money," and he took them. A young man standing by said, "I want something 'better than money,' give me one." Another said, "I will read any thing you give me."

I have distributed not only in our own village of Bristol, but also in Elkhart [a neighboring city], and every-where in the highways and hedges, as the Scriptures tell me to do. Some have thanked me very much for them. I cannot tell if any have been converted, but I believe the tracts have been

the means of making many think. The knowledge of a day of future rewards and punishments is causing some to be more sober-minded, and is drawing them to the Church services.

CONCERNING GRANTS OF TRACTS.

To prevent confusion and possible annoyance to themselves we beg pastors desiring tracts to note the following:

1. The Book Concern and the Tract Society are two distinct corporations, each having its own executive officers and its own rules.

2. The Agents of the Book Concern publish tracts and sell them, but they are not authorized to give them away. When applications come to them for grants of tracts they hand them to the officers of the Tract Society for consideration.

3. The Tract Society does not print or publish or sell tracts, but it does make donations of tracts, first buying them of the Book Concern.

4. When a pastor sends an order to the Book Agents for tracts, and makes no reference to any desire for a grant, it is to be supposed that he expects these tracts to be charged to his personal account, and that he further expects to pay for them. This is the only business-like view to take of the matter. Yet it occasionally happens that a pastor, when the bill is sent him, objects to paying it on the ground that he has taken a tract collection and is entitled to a grant of tracts. The time to speak of that was when he sent his order. It would then have regularly come before the Tract Society as an application for a grant. There is no more reason for the Tract Society paying for the tracts ordered by a pastor than there is for its paying for the books or periodicals he orders.

Pastors may prevent much embarrassment by remembering the obvious distinction between an order for the purchase of tracts and an application for a grant of tracts.

A SPECIAL AGENT.

See page 199 of this number of the MANUAL for an account of the appointment by the two Boards of the Sunday-School Union and of the Tract Society of a special agent for the West and North-west.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

DIRECTORY.

PROPER CORPORATE NAME: "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

OFFICE: CHURCH EXTENSION ROOMS, No. 1026 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ORGANIZATION, CHARTER, ETC.—See Discipline, Edition of 1884, ¶¶ 297 to 320. See also Report to General Conference of 1884; tracts, etc., furnished by the Board.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE meets annually in the month of November in the Church Extension Rooms, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION meets on the second Wednesday in each month in the Church Extension Rooms.

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. A. J. Kynett, D.D.*, has charge of all the correspondence and business of the Board. All communications should be addressed to him at No. 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE TREASURER, *James Long, Esq.*, has charge of the funds, as his office implies. All remittances of money should be by draft on New York, or Post-office Money-order on Philadelphia, Pa., payable to his order, and inclosed to the Corresponding Secretary as above directed.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR AID must be made, as the Discipline provides, upon blank forms furnished by the Board, and in strict accordance therewith.

IN ALL BEQUESTS the following form should be observed:

I give and bequeath to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the sum of .....; and the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors for the same.

IN DEVISES OF REAL ESTATE observe the following:

I give, bequeath, and devise to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the following land and premises, that is to say:

.....

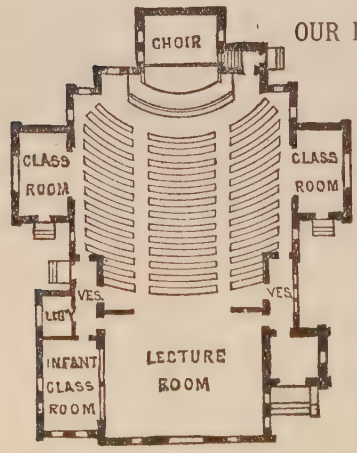
.....

to have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances, to the said Board, its successors and assigns, forever.

Persons making Bequests and Devises to the Board, or knowing that they have been made, are requested to notify the Corresponding Secretary, at No. 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and, if practicable, to inclose a copy of the clause in the will, that the wishes of the testator may be fully known.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, blank deeds, church plans, tracts, leaflets, etc., concerning Church Extension, write to the Corresponding Secretary.

☞ See Discipline of 1884, ¶¶ 297 to 320.



No. 38, GROUND PLAN.

OUR MODEL CHURCHES.

This plan appears in our catalogue for 1885 as No. 38, and provides for building in brick.

The body of the building is 36x78 feet. The transepts are 6x36 feet. The class-rooms are each 11x20 feet. The choir is 12x18½ feet, making the extreme dimensions 70x90 feet. The tower is 12x12 feet at base, and 94 feet high. The walls are 15 feet, and the ceiling of audience-room is 28 feet high in the

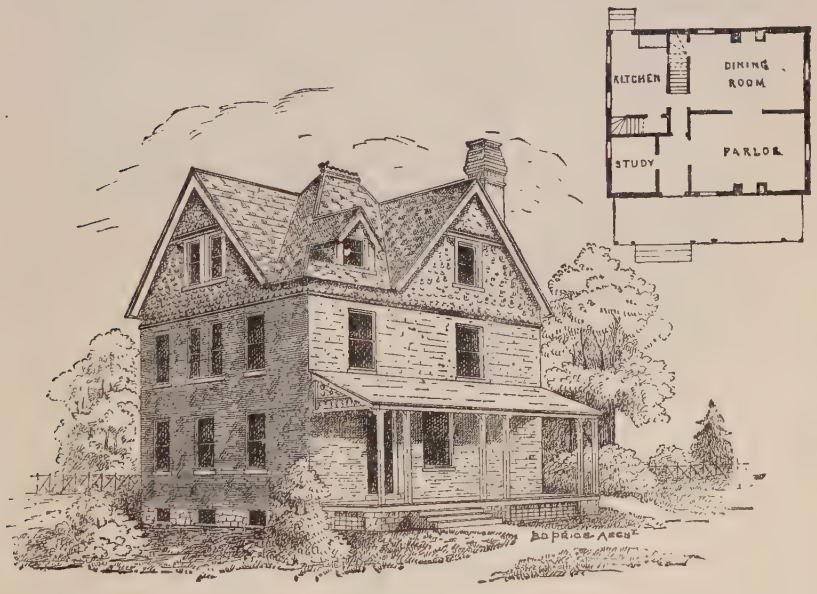
middle. The roof is supported with exposed ornamental rafters.

The ceiling of lecture-room is 23 feet high in the middle, plainly plastered. The audience-room contains 312 full seats; lecture-room, 150; class-rooms, each 40; infant class-room, 75 children.

This church will cost, where labor and material are cheap, from $10,000 to $16,000. The plans cost $50.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE, and secure the best results at least expense, by selecting and building by one of our plans.

Address A. J. KYNETT, D.D., 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.



OUR MODEL PARSONAGES.

This plan appears in our catalogue for 1885 as No. 17, and is a slight modification of one built some years ago at Kennett Square, Pa., at a cost of $3,000. It is at present the home of the parents of the late illustrious author and traveler, Bayard Taylor. It is the most compact, convenient, and economical in construction of any in the catalogue. It could now be

erected in many localities for $2,000. The plans are drawn for brick walls to the square with shingled gables. Any good carpenter could make the necessary changes for constructing it in frame.

The outside dimensions, exclusive of porch, are 28x34 feet. The porch is 8 feet wide. The stories are all $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the clear. There is only the one stairway. The parlor and dining-room are each $12\frac{1}{2}$x19 feet. The study is 7x9 feet. The kitchen is 9x$13\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The kitchen contains large closet over the cellar stairs, and opens into the dining-room pantry, which is placed under the main stairs.

The second story contains two large bed-rooms over parlor and dining-room, two small bed-rooms and bath-room over kitchen and study. The attic contains two bed-rooms and a store-room.

The house is to be heated with portable furnace, and open fire-places in parlor and dining-room.

Send for catalogue if you want a neat and convenient house.

OUR RCHITECTURAL PLANS.

The necessity for improving plans for church building, especially of the cheaper class of churches, has for many years been every-where apparent. While engaged in Church Extension work in Iowa, before his assignment to the general work, the Corresponding Secretary made arrangements with W. W. Sanborn, architect, of Lyons, Iowa, to furnish plans for churches at reduced rates, duplicating them by hand from original drawings. In a few cases the Conference Board of Church Extension paid for the plans as the wisest way to give aid to the churches. On entering upon his duties as general Secretary he continued this arrangement with Mr. Sanborn, so that churches desiring plans might order them at reduced rates. In 1870 a few of these designs were published in the Annual Report of the Board. In 1871 a few were added, under the same arrangement, by Jacob Snyder, architect, of Akron, O. Through Rev. Dr. Daniels, of Chicago, a few drawings were obtained, the same year, of Cass Chapman, architect, of that city, with a view to lithographing, but they were destroyed in the great fire which swept over that city Oct. 9, 1871.

The plan of lithographing being thereby delayed, the pre-

vious arrangement was continued, and in 1872 and 1873 additional designs were furnished by Samuel Sloan, architect, of Philadelphia. In 1875 still another was added by W. H. Hayes, of Elmira, N. Y. In 1876 arrangements were made with Samuel Sloan for lithographing a few designs at the actual cost of the labor of subordinates for the drawings, with the added expense of lithographing. This was done in pursuance of authority given by the Board of Church Extension.

The year preceding this Benjamin D. Price, our present architect, prepared a few designs under the old arrangement, which were published in our Annual Report. At a later period he prepared with the pen one plan, which the Board had lithographed along with those prepared by Mr. Sloan.

The methods of construction by the plans of Mr. Sloan were heavy and expensive. By those of Mr. Price they were lighter and less expensive, and yet very substantial. The Presbyterian Board of Church Erection took a portion of the plans prepared by Mr. Sloan, and we believe continues to furnish them, with others under some arrangement, probably such as we had with Mr. Sanborn at the beginning. The plans prepared by Mr. Price were in great demand, and gave universal satisfaction. Those of the heavier construction never paid expenses, but the plans prepared by Mr. Price paid their own way and yielded a small profit, which could be applied to the enlargement of the work.

With this experience the Corresponding Secretary negotiated an arrangement with Mr. Price to do the architectural work required for this department, which was approved by the Board, and Mr. Price opened his office in the Church Extension Building, 1026 Arch Street. At the commencement of the year 1880 the total outlay for the preparation of plans had been $1,011 78, and our total receipts for plans sold, $1,000 62. So that we began the year 1880 with a loss of $11 16. Since that time our plans have all been furnished under our arrangement with Mr. Price, who has devoted constant attention to this work, especially studying how to secure the best results with the least expense, and to adapt his plans to all parts of the country.

At an early period it became manifest that it was inexpedient

and unprofitable to accumulate a stock of plans of any specific design. Trustees and building committees were constantly asking for slight changes, so, on the recommendation of Mr. Price, we adopted the plan of photographing, on prepared paper, from original drawings. In this way we could avoid the accumulation of stock, and make changes desired with greater facility and less expense.

No department of our work has given greater or more general satisfaction. Our Bishops and others who travel through the country recognize the churches built by our plans, and all express pleasure with the manifest improvement. The prices charged vary from $2 up to $50, and are so adjusted as to make them pay the actual expense of producing them, and give a revenue sufficient to cover expense of correspondence, mailing, etc., and justify the necessary enlargement of the work.

In 1881 inquiries were made for parsonage plans, and several brethren suggested the necessity of providing plans for cheap and convenient parsonages especially adapted to the country and small villages. A few were prepared in response to this call, which have been subsequently increased as the demand has justified. We are now furnishing a good variety of plans for both churches and parsonages, as shown in our catalogue. Any one who will go through the catalogue with care, and note the differences of style and size and material, each one of which requires separate drawings, will be surprised to find the large number for which we have accumulated the drawings. That first plan prepared by Mr. Price, and designated in our catalogue as No. 5, has, under the diversity of form, size, and material, grown to 72.

Up to June 1, 1885, we have sold 1,975 plans for churches, and 64 for parsonages. The total expenditure by the Board up to June 1, 1885, has been $10,796 64, and the total amount received, $14,147 85. So that the department has paid its own way and yields a reasonable profit, every dollar of which passes into the treasury of the Board for its general purposes, and aids in defraying expenses for postage, clerk-hire, etc., a part of which is properly chargeable to this account. Our plans are well-matured, and we contemplate still further enlargement to meet the growing demands of the country.

PAPER IMITATION OF STAINED GLASS.

The attention of the Corresponding Secretary was first called to this article by observing it on the windows of the Young People's Temple at Ocean Grove, six or eight years ago. Parties selling it claimed letters-patent and explained charges made on that basis. Questions of doubt were raised as to the validity of such patents, and investigation at Washington, through a Patent Office solicitor, resulted in the conviction that the use of the article was not protected by letters-patent, and that it could be produced at considerably lower charges. At the beginning of the year 1880, our architect, Mr. B. D. Price, proposed to manufacture and sell the paper in connection with the arrangements between himself and the Board for architectural plans, but after careful consideration, through appropriate committees, the Board judged that it was inexpedient to engage in commercial transactions of this kind, and declined the proposed arrangement. He then associated another party with him and proceeded to develop the business at considerable expense in preparing designs and lithographing them.

Believing the article to be well adapted for use on the windows of our cheaper churches, and for ornamenting the windows of old churches, we have advertised it in our publications, and have spoken favorably of it in brief editorial notices. Neither the Board of Church Extension nor any person connected with the Board has any financial interest whatever in the business, and the Corresponding Secretary alone is responsible for the opinions expressed as to its value.

We make this statement in this public way for the reason that along with the multitude of letters received speaking favorably of it are a few complaining that it has disappointed their expectations. We are convinced that to obtain satisfactory results the directions given for the application of the paper must be strictly followed. If the paste be made of inferior flour, or is not of the proper consistency, or without *boiling* water, or if applied to glass heated at the time by the rays of the sun, or exposed to frost before being thoroughly dried, it is liable to come off. If the paste be good, and the paper when applied is *thoroughly dried in the shade* before oil-

ing, and again *thoroughly dried before varnishing*, it will adhere, and if the quality of the oil and varnish be as required, we believe it will be durable. The paper on the windows of the Young People's Temple at Ocean Grove, put on eight or ten years ago, is still good, and a similar article on bath-room windows, put on more than twelve years ago, in Philadelphia, still adheres firmly. It is possible that in high latitudes, where moisture condenses and freezes on the windows, the danger of peeling off is greater. Probably to renew the varnish once in three or four years would obviate the difficulty.

The weight of testimony, coming from all parts of the country, is in favor of its use, and the majority of those reporting speak of it in the highest terms. We therefore continue the advertisement with admonitions to all concerned to exercise care and follow strictly the directions for putting it on.

For any desired information, apply to B. D. Price & Co., 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Since writing the above, Mr. Price hands us the following from Rev. Thomas Sharpe, of Waupaca, Wisconsin:

I was pastor at Union Grove, October, 1883, to October, 1884. The imitation of stained glass is a perfect success in my judgment. The ladies who did the work said to me, "This bad work, you see, was done when we became careless or tired. It is no fault of the paper." I can give you names if needful. In 1882, at Union Church, Racine, we were in too much haste. I with them put on the paper in the coldest weather during the day, and it froze before it was dry. Where we did follow your directions the paper is a perfect success. I was in N. L. June 14, and was told by the pastor and his wife that the paper was nearly all put on by a boy who was careless as to how it was done. I like fair play.

OUR CHURCH EXTENSION SONG SERVICE.

Dr. Buckley says in "The Christian Advocate" of June 11:

The Church Extension Service of Song, for Churches and Sunday-schools, arranged by Dr. Kynett, is really well done. It contains on the first page of the cover the picture of a church, surrounded by the motto:

"These temples of His grace,
How beautiful they stand!
The honors of our native place,
And bulwarks of our land."

On the inside the principles and an epitome of the history of the work of the Society; then follow Scripture selections for responsive reading. The hymns are very appropriate. One is by Isaac Watts, two are by Charles

Wesley. In the center is a map showing the work of the Society for the year 1884. The little book is an educator. On the last page is the song written by A. J. Hough on Chaplain M'Cabe's telegram to the infidel convention. Finally, on the last page of the cover are quotations from eight different Bishops on the subject of Church Extension, and a Centennial review of Methodism. The editor of "The Christian Advocate" often has a feeling of regret that he is debarred the pleasure, formerly enjoyed, of leading his own congregation on special occasions in celebrating the work of the Church and the progress of the Gospel. Reading this song-service rekindles the regret.

The Corresponding Secretary shares in this feeling, and believes that there are hundreds of pastors who will heartily enter into the same spirit. Rev. W. F. M'Dowell, pastor at Oberlin, O., is one of the most enthusiastic of these. Under date of May 30, he writes the Corresponding Secretary as follows:

We had a great day.

1. We freely distributed the song-services, asking the people to carry them home after church.

2. The Sunday-school had been trained on all the music, so they could sing it heartily.

3. We had forty-three banners made of bright goods, with the name of each State and Territory and the number of churches aided in each, as given on left-hand margin of map, put thereon. These banners were placed in the hands of forty-three children representing the various States and Territories.

4. We used the service clear through. I preached, at its close, a short sermon.

5. At the close of the sermon these forty-three children, bearing their banners, marched from a class-room, where the congregation had not seen them, once around the church and to the front, where they stood in line and order. During the march they and the audience sang "Bringing in the Sheaves;" and while they stood "We're Building Two a Day" was sung by a quartet. The effect was very fine. The people were enthusiastic over the service and the cause.

Now for the practical result: We have about seventy-five probationers in the church, most of them converted last winter. Tuesday night of this week we had a special meeting for them. They wanted to make a special thank-offering. Under the authority of your words in the January MANUAL I told them that for $100 we could build a church in Tennessee, the Board of Church Extension being responsible for the selection of the place, etc. They voted to do it, and are now engaged in that effort. I think we shall raise the $100.

Our apportionment is only $23, but these probationers want a church

of their own somewhere in Tennessee or elsewhere. They want to have a picture of the church and to know where it is located.

I must give you one little incident. A boy ten years old had earned 25 cents with his own hands. He meant to buy a new straw hat with it, but, hearing of this plan, he said to his father: "Pa, I am going to do without that hat and give my quarter to Church Extension. I want to help a little." At noon to-day he came to me with his offering.

Give these dear young people encouragement in their good work.

And so we did. Who could refrain from earnest words of commendation to those who enter thus heartily into the work of the Church! Some pastors fear to have probationers asked for money. Our good pastor at Oberlin has wiser views of the pastoral care of probationers. These at Oberlin will have a congregation sheltered in Tennessee that will give thanks for their timely service and pray together for their prosperity, and they will be the stronger for their good and timely service.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND THE MILLION FOR MISSIONS.

Our Missionary Secretaries are pushing hard for a million for missions. This is right, and the Church should promptly respond. It is greatly needed. Our missionaries who have been sent into foreign fields should be generously supported and largely re-enforced, and educational and charitable institutions should be made to help them in their work.

Our missionaries in the home field are the poorest paid laborers in the Church, and yet occupy the most important and productive fields. Our own country at the present period of its development is the most important mission field for American Protestant Christians.

We need the million for missions immediately, but a million this year and $800,000 next will not do. We should move up to the million this year, and advance from that to larger sums hereafter. How can this be done?

If the Church be able to give a million for missions to-day, it is largely because of the work of Church Extension during the last twenty years. If the work of church-building had been neglected in the past, it would be idle to call for a million for missions now. Through our Board of Church Extension more than five thousand churches have been aided during the last twenty years. This is more than one fourth of the total

number of our churches to which we must look for our missionary contributions.

Of course, the churches we have aided are not among the strongest, and so we cannot claim that one fourth of the needed million should come from them, but can they not be expected to furnish one tenth? If the collections in each of these five thousand churches should average twenty dollars, we should have $100,000 from the churches aided by our Board of Church Extension.

In the light of these facts how utterly foolish is the suggestion that found currency in the Church, as stated in the April number of this magazine, that the Board of Church Extension had "too much money," and that "for a few years, at least, it will not be disastrous to the Church at large if our funds are turned into other channels." To reduce our work of Church Extension is to reduce the sources of revenue for missionary work and for every other department on which the prosperity of the Church depends. No true friend of the missionary cause has ever made such suggestion. Our Missionary Secretaries have never asked it. No true friend of the Church would give the slightest encouragement to turning the contributions of the people from the work of Church Extension into any other channel. Let the Church contribute immediately the million for missions and advance from that to larger sums, but let there be a corresponding advance along the whole line. Each department of our Church work is dependent upon every other, and all should work together for the final and universal triumph of the kingdom of Christ.

WRECKED CHURCHES.

We have more than once called attention to the necessity for a "*Special Relief*" or "*Emergency Fund*," for the aid of churches upon which unforeseen and unavoidable calamities have fallen.

In September, 1881, a devastating fire swept over a large section of northern Michigan, leaving only a blackened path of indiscriminate ruin. Churches, school-houses, and dwellings were all gone, and the people left in helpless poverty. We were constrained to aid in rebuilding the churches, and

within the next two years appropriated for that purpose, by donations and loans, over ten thousand dollars, going much beyond the amount authorized for that Conference, but "necessity knows no law," and the work had to be done.

Our MANUAL for July, 1883, contains a report of the aid furnished to the church at Deadwood, of the joy of the people when it was completed, and then of their disappointment and despair as the church, with the very ground upon which it stood, was swept away by storm and flood, leaving where it stood the bed of the new channel made by the mountain torrent. Appeal was made to the Church at large, and we did what we could to repair the loss, but they have not yet recovered from the effects of that calamity.

We are now called upon to trace along the map where the crosses show the churches aided by our Board the track of the hurricane of Sunday night, June 14. On the morning of that day happy families gathered in these churches to celebrate Children's Day. Gladness reigned there as elsewhere, but the night brought the fearful storm, leaving desolation and death in its track. We take from our table a few of the letters which have reached us from this scene of ruin.

MOUNT HOPE, NEBRASKA, West Nebraska Mission.—It might be called Mt. Despair now. With a donation of $200, they had built a neat church. Rev. A. Collins, pastor, writes June 16:

> Our beautiful little church at Mt. Hope was utterly destroyed last Sabbath night by a terrific wind-storm. We had spent a delightful day with friends and Christians, who came early in the morning for the appointed services. All felt that it was good to be there, and rejoiced together that we had such a pleasant place of worship nearly ready for dedication. It is now in ruins, and we are again left a flock without a fold. Our people expended all they could command in the erection of this church, and are willing to mortgage the crops of the coming harvest if they can replace it, but this cannot be done without aid from abroad. Can the Board of Church Extension help us in this emergency? We shall await your answer with great solicitude. We are offered $125 for the foundation and the wreck. If you cannot help us we will sell and return the money to you, as we feel in honor bound to do. Shall we sell or rebuild?

A special relief or emergency fund would enable us to respond promptly, and have these brethren in their church

before snow flies, but we have only the amount regularly authorized by the General Committee for use within that mission, and that is all promised. What shall we do? If every pastor would take this collection and secure the full amount asked, our contingent fund would help solve the problem. Will they do it? We must answer this appeal, but all promises must be kept. And this is not the only case.

PONCA, NEBRASKA, North Nebraska Conference.—We gave them $250 and loaned $250 last year, with which they were building a church by our plan No. 7, at a cost of about $4,000. The pastor, Rev. James B. Priest, now writes:

Sunday night, June 14, our quiet little village was struck by a hurricane from the south-west, and our fine new church, just completed and soon to have been dedicated, was blown to the ground and completely ruined. It was a brick structure, built after Church Extension plan No. 7. We had just held our Children's Day concert—a delightful service—but our church is now a mass of ruins. It was insured against fire and lightning, but not against wind, so we are without insurance and have a debt of $1,000 due your Board. I have tried to rally our forces, but up to this time it seems almost a hopeless case. We dare not increase our debt. We will do all we can, but nearly all our members have suffered more or less loss from the storm. Not to rebuild is death to our society, and to rebuild without aid is impossible. Can you not help us in some way? Is there not some special emergency fund from which you can aid us? If possible, for the sake of Christ's children, help us!

The presiding elder of the district, Rev. D. Marquette, says of this case:

The district will do what it can for the relief of Ponca. Our District Conference has pledged $114, and many will lend a helping hand, but we cannot hope for the full amount needed. Is there any provision by which you can help in such an emergency? Have you a contingent fund from which relief might come? It is difficult to conceive of circumstances that call more urgently for sympathy and help. Can you give us any encouragement?

Every one who reads these lines will feel that a prompt and generous answer should be returned, but words will not meet the case. Money is required. One generous collection in every church would provide the means for the needed response. Dare we go on faith that the collections will be every-where taken? But here are other cases.

MARCUS, IOWA, N. W. Iowa Conference.—In 1881 we helped these brethren, under the frontier plan, by donation of $250 and loan of $250. They had completed their church and returned the amount borrowed. Now the pastor, Rev. L. C. Woodford, sends this sad message:

Our church in Marcus is a shapeless, total wreck from the tornado that swept this country Sunday night, June 14. Children's Day services were the last held in the church. We were insured against loss by fire, but not against wind.

A terrible hail-storm accompanied the wind, and the crops are fearfully injured. Our membership is small, and nearly all have suffered by loss of property—houses, barns, fences, etc., besides injury to crops—so that it will be utterly impossible to rebuild without help. We have started a subscription, and already the brethren are coming up nobly, giving three or four times what they are really able to do. We have sold the wreck for $170 and have on subscription $850. To this we may be able to add $200 more, but that amount is insufficient, and time must be given on some of our subscriptions. What can you do for us? A gift of $500 would cause us to triumph gloriously. Can we have it?

How gladly would we answer "Yes" if that would furnish the money; but it will not. These letters drive us back upon the treasury only to find that the amounts regularly authorized for the work within the Conferences have all been promised and we have presumed largely upon the "Frontier Plan." Yet something must be done.

EAGLE GROVE, IOWA, N. W. Iowa Conference.—With the aid of a donation of $250 and loan of $250 an excellent church was built by our plan No. 5 B, in 1882, at a cost of $2,000. They had recently enlarged and beautified it at an additional outlay of about $1,000. It had been re-opened the last Sunday in May, and two weeks thereafter, with the room beautifully decorated with flowers, amid singing of birds they celebrated Children's Day. Within a few hours the church was a total wreck. The pastor, Rev. Charles B. Winter, sends to his brethren and fellow-laborers a most touching appeal. He says:

Here we are, a society not four years old and weak financially. Every member and friend in the community having within the past two weeks strained every nerve to lift the last dollar of indebtedness on the building and improvements, yet we are without a house to worship in. Under no

circumstances could a loyal Methodist preacher give up in despair, and especially with the prospects which we have here as a town and church in the future. But what shall we do? My brethren and sisters meet me on the ruins of the house of worship and say, "By the blessing of God we will build again." The majority of the society have given every dollar they can for the present.

By a wise provision of our official board we were insured against wind-storms in the sum of $1,000, and have that as a nucleus for a building fund. We cannot build for less than $3,000.

The presiding elder, Rev. R. C. Glass, writes concerning this case and others:

The most destructive storm that ever passed over north-western Iowa visited this section the night of June 14. Three of our churches in this Conference were totally destroyed, and some others badly damaged. It was not a cyclone, but a wide-spread hurricane. May its like never visit us again!

The circular appeal of the pastor at Eagle Grove tells the sad story of that church. There is nothing left for us but to rebuild. Many of our people and of the community at large have been so damaged personally that they cannot help, so we are in greater need of aid from the Board of Church Extension. What can you do for us in this extremity? Let us hear from you at an early date.

We reply to all these letters and appeals encouraging the brethren to arise and build, looking for such aid as we may be able to give; and that we may help with some measure of generosity, we reproduce their appeals in the MANUAL. We confess that these letters make us feel very much as we imagine a mother would feel with her children crying for bread with the flour to make it still growing in the harvest field. She would look anxiously to the coming harvest. So we look to the approaching Conferences for the annual collections. Dare we hope for such increase as will enable us to respond to these extraordinary calls? What a great relief it would be if some wealthy laymen would send us generous offerings for the creation of an emergency or special relief fund out of which we could respond promptly and generously to such distressing appeals.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

DIRECTORY AND EXPLANATIONS.

CORPORATE NAME: The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

OFFICE: 805 Broadway, N Y., adjoining the offices of Book Agents, Editors, and Bishops.

Charter, Organization, etc.—See Tract No. 5, Society Series, which is furnished gratuitously to all applicants. See also Discipline, ¶ 262, §§ 5, 6, 7, also ¶ 558.

The Annual Meeting of the Board is held in New York in the month of November.

Officers—*President*, Bishop Harris; *Recording Secretary*, J. W. Lindsay; *Treasurer*, O. Hoyt; *Corresponding Secretary*, D. P. Kidder.

The Corresponding Secretary has charge of all the correspondence and executive business of the Board. His official address is 805 Broadway, New York.

The Treasurer, Hon. Oliver Hoyt, receives from the Corresponding Secretary and the several Book Agents all remittances, and holds all funds of the Board, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee.

N. B.—As the Treasurer's counting-house is in another part of the city, it is for his convenience to have the details of accounts kept at the office of the Corresponding Secretary.

The Available Funds of the Board are the proceeds, (1) of the General Educational Fund of the Church; (2) of the Children's Fund, both supplemented by annual collections made in the churches, and specially by those of Children's Day; also by special donations.

The Disbursements are made in loans to candidates for the ministry or missionary work, to aid them in securing a thorough education. Preference is always given to grown-up Sunday-school scholars, and also to Conferences that send their educational collections to the Board.

To secure Loans application must be made in a form prescribed by the Board, and furnished to all who desire it. The demand for loans from worthy applicants is at this time very great and very urgent. In nearly all parts of the country there are promising youths of both sexes anxious to devote their lives to Christian work, but who are unable to secure the advantages of our schools without a little help. Help furnished, in the form of loans, encourages their self-respect, stimulates their efforts, enables them to accomplish their object, and, as a rule, returns in due time to aid others. Hence the claims of the Board for co-operation on the part of those who desire to do good are very great.

The Plan of the Church is to give all, even the children of the Sunday-school, an opportunity to co-operate in promoting and securing a higher education. In this manner, the attention of the young is roused to their own responsibilities and privileges, and many are started in a career of self-development who otherwise would not think a thorough education possible. Nine tenths of all who are now receiving aid from the funds of the Board are grown-up Sunday-school scholars. The children of the present day and of the future will receive similar aid in their turn.

Donations and Legacies are solicited for these objects. Persons making devises of real estate to the Board by will are requested to observe the following form:

I give and devise to "The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York, the following lands and premises, that is to say:..... To have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances thereof, to the said Board, its successors and assigns forever.

Bequests of money should be appropriately varied.

Persons making Bequests or Devises to the Board, or knowing that they have been made, are requested to notify the Corresponding Secretary, at No. 805 Broadway, New York, and, if practicable, to inclose a copy of the clause in the will, that the wishes of the testator may be fully known.

ORIGIN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S DAY.

THE extraordinary interest developed in connection with Children's Day of the present year has made inquiry more than usually rife respecting the origin and the original object of the Children's Day observance. In these circumstances, we solicited an article from the Rev. Dr. Crooks, as a surviving member of the Central Centenary Committee, of 1865–8, which should explain both. He responded by publishing in "The Christian Advocate," of June 4, 1885, the following able and timely article which we gladly reproduce in a permanent form. It will serve as an authoritative and ample explanation of the facts of the case, for the benefit of all present and future inquirers:

The Children's Fund is one of the products of the Centenary of American Methodism, celebrated with suitable observance in 1866. In order that a proper notice should be taken of the completion of the century, and also that the thank-offerings of the people might be directed to the best objects, the General Conference of 1864 appointed a large committee, consisting of the Bishops, twelve ministers, and twelve laymen, with full power to arrange the commemoration. At its first meeting in Cleveland, February, 1865, this committee appointed a smaller committee of six to execute its will, and, in fact, to do the work needing to be done. The smaller committee, known as the Central Centenary Committee, consisted of the following members: John M'Clintock, Daniel Curry, George R. Crooks, O. Hoyt, James Bishop, and C. C. North. With the exception of Dr. M'Clintock, all the members of the committee are still living.

I have before me, as I now write, the committee's record-book kept by the secretary, the Rev. Wm. C. Hoyt. The date of its first meeting is April 14, 1865; of its last, September 18, 1868. For three years and five months the committee was engaged in incessant labors—organizing local committees, issuing documents, corresponding with or through its secretary visiting, Conferences, and holding public meetings. Some of its public meetings will be ever memorable for their fervor and power. The first, at St. Paul's, New York, organized by the committee; the second, held in the same church, organized by the Ladies' Association; the third, at Cooper Institute, under the direction of the committee, were worthy of the occasion as rounding out a century of unexampled toils and successes in spreading the kingdom of Christ.

Who that saw the dense mass gathered in the first St. Paul's meeting can ever forget the scene? The aisles were obliterated from one's vision; all that could be discerned by the eye was the "sea of faces" filling the building from wall to wall. At the organ end of the gallery, and spreading to the side galleries, the associated Methodist choirs of New York, three

hundred strong, opened with Montgomery's "A hundred years ago," sung to the stirring strains of "Antioch." Whatever doubt may have been felt by any one of the Committee of the complete success of the Centenary commemoration of 1866 was dispelled by the events of that evening. The right chord had been struck, and its vibrations were about to be heard throughout the length and breadth of American Methodism.

It was soon perceived by the committee that no provision had been made for gathering the offerings of the children, and especially that nothing had been prepared for their direct benefit. It occurred to me, as no doubt it did also to others, that something might be done at this time to connect our Sunday-schools with our general educational system; in a word, to supply "a missing link." A committee, consisting of G. R. Crooks, C. C. North, and the Secretary, W. C. Hoyt, was appointed to prepare for the proper observance of the Centenary of Methodism by the children of the Church. The following plan, drafted by myself, was reported and adopted October 26, 1865. I quote from the secretary's record:

"That the Cleveland Committee be requested to authorize a Sunday-school Children's Fund, for the following purposes and under the following conditions:

"1. The fund to be vested in the Board of Trustees already authorized, but to be kept as a separate fund.

"2. That it be appropriated to assist meritorious Sunday-school scholars of either sex who would, without such aid, be unable to obtain a complete education.

"3. The beneficiaries within the bounds of each Conference to be selected in such manner as each Conference shall direct.

"4. Each Conference to have the number of scholars aided by this fund proportioned to the number of children under its care."

At a previous meeting, held October 13, 1865, it was my privilege to offer a resolution that a Sunday-school medal should be provided, to be given to each child who should contribute one dollar or should collect five dollars. A dollar medal was prepared, and also a five dollar medal, both under the authority of the Central Committee. As these measures could be carried out only with the sanction of the Committee of the General Conference, already described, a meeting of that committee was held in the house of Daniel Drew, New York, in the autumn of 1865. The plan of the proposed Children's Fund was there heartily approved.

To make the scheme known, an address to Sunday-school superintendents, written by Mr. C. C. North, was issued. The address was full of life and enthusiasm, and was known as Centenary Document No. 5. We had before us the prospect of gathering a very large sum as the foundation of the fund. We were thwarted, however, by the narrowness of well-meaning brethren, who thought they saw in the accumulation of so much money a peril to established interests. Some imagined that the Sunday-school contributions to the missionary treasury would fall off that year, and interposed checks; others wanted the children's contributions for

local uses; others belonged to the large class who regard whatever is new as necessarily impracticable. Instead, therefore, of accumulating a quarter of a million of dollars, as, with good reason, we had hoped, the total result was $59,691. This, however, sufficed for a beginning, and as it had been contemplated from the first that an annual collection should be taken for the increase of the fund, we were fairly started on the way to secure a beneficent provision for the children of the Church during the incoming century.

I need not dwell at length upon the work of the Central Committee, nor tell how, through its agency in organizing the enthusiasm of the people, the total Centenary contributions were brought up to the sum of eight millions, nor how, through this same committee, Mr. Daniel Drew made known officially to the Church his purpose of founding the theological seminary which bears his name.

As the time for the meeting of the General Conference of 1868 drew near, we began to prepare to give an account of our stewardship. We had done our work of three years and a half at a very little expense, and had received into our own treasury for connectional objects nearly $100,000. Under date of March 4, 1868, I find in the secretary's record: "C. C. North was requested to prepare suggestions to the General Conference respecting the Sunday-school and other connectional funds." Under date of March 16, "Mr. North's suggestions were read, and Dr. M'Clintock is to modify and incorporate them in the report. Messrs. M'Clintock, Curry, and Crooks are appointed a committee to whom the final amendments to the report are to be submitted."

The report, thus shaped by several hands, was received by the General Conference with great favor, and the work of the committee fully approved. The report contains this sentence: "A feasible plan would be for a collection to be taken in all our Sunday-schools on a given day." This is the suggestion of the Children's Day. Under date of June 15, 1868, the secretary's book says:

"*Resolved*, That the secretary be requested to have inserted in "The Sunday-School Advocate," "Sunday-School Journal," and "Child's Magazine," that part of the report of the General Conference relative to the Children's Day and the Sunday-School Children's Fund, and also to ask Dr. Harris to insert in the Discipline the passage from such report as marked by Dr. M'Clintock."

[The insertion was made, as desired, on page 331 of the Discipline of 1868 in the following words:

"We further recommend that efforts be made through the Sabbath-schools of the Church to augment the Children's Fund. We recommend that the second Sabbath in the month of June be annually observed as the *Children's Day*, and that in each Sabbath-school we attempt the collection of an average of five cents for each child enrolled. Thus easily, silently, and almost unconsciously can this fund be made more than its most ardent projectors even dared to hope."]

This was the final action of the committee, and the Children's Fund and its appendant, Children's Day, were brought into the Church with the sanction of its highest authority.

For myself, I look back upon the work of those three busy years with great pleasure, as I doubt not all the living members of the Central Committee do. There was a great occasion, and the Church proved itself equal to the occasion. The Board of Education has become a living power, and is, we may hope, to have much to do in molding the Church's future. The Children's Fund has reached $200,000, and for a few years has been increasing by great leaps. Children's Day has become a joy day for the youth of our Church. The Ecumenical Conference, held in London, September, 1881, recommended that one Sunday of each year be observed as Children's Day throughout all Methodism. We tried to have our day—the second Sunday in June—named especially, but the Conference did not see its way clear to go so far. [Other Churches, however, in this country, have since adopted the day, as well as the custom, and strangely enough, some of them, or rather uninformed persons connected with them, claim to have originated the latter.]

Official Appointment.

Following the above recommendation, the Board of Education to whose custody the Children's Fund was committed, from the time of its incorporation in 1869, sought in various ways to promote the observance of Children's Day. To this end it addressed circulars to the Annual Conferences and appeals to the churches. In the spring of 1872 it presented a memorial to the General Conference, in response to which that body enacted the following important section as a part of the disciplinary law of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

"¶ 262, § 6. It is recommended that the second Sunday in June be every-where observed as Children's Day; and that wherever practicable a collection be taken in the Sunday-school in aid of the Sunday-school Fund of the Board of Education."

Corroboration.

Twelve years later the General Conference of 1884 sought to confirm and strengthen the above law by calling attention to it in the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That we request all our ministers, churches, and Sunday-schools, from this time forward, to enter heartily into the observance of Children's Day on the plan originally proposed and distinctively defined in the Discipline of our Church."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

To the Children's Educational Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

At the suggestion of an honored layman, a practical friend of the Board of Education and the work it is accomplishing, and who deems it important "to fully enlist all the people in this grand Church work," the Board now opens and will hereafter publish a list of annual subscribers, of one dollar or more each, to the Children's Educational Fund, to whom the annual Reports and special circulars of the Board will be sent. This list will be prominently inserted in the annual Reports from year to year, and will serve as a guide in mailing that for 1886 when published. It will be arranged by States in alphabetical order, with the names of subscribers under their respective post-offices. The names of those who pay five dollars each and upward will be printed in capital letters. In cities, if so reported, the names of subscribers will be grouped under the heads of the several pastoral charges, a common address to be designated for as many as practicable. Some of the many motives for subscribing to this fund in this manner may be briefly stated as follows:

1. To aid a cause of great promise to the present and future welfare of the Church and her youth.

2. To help introduce that cause, which is comparatively new, to the better comprehension and acquaintance of our people in all parts of the Church.

3. To obviate a practical difficulty, hitherto greatly felt, in endeavoring to disseminate the information needed and desired by many persons with whom it is impossible to communicate regularly without such a plan.

It seems safe to suppose that many, if not all, persons included in the following classes will desire to be well and thoroughly informed concerning one of the newest and most promising movements developed in Christian history—a movement originating with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in which she is expected and endeavoring to become an example to all other Churches.

1.) Superintendents, ex-superintendents, and actual and former officers, and many teachers of Sunday-schools.

2.) Members of the Committee on Education appointed in each pastoral charge.

3.) Special friends of the cause of Christian education.

For persons included in either of the above classes to be unable to explain the plans and workings of the Board of Education of their own Church, inclusive of the design and progressive results of the Children's Day movement, must be very embarrassing. For them to be kept well posted in reference to the Board's history, plans, progress, and measures, must be a source of great satisfaction, and often of usefulness to others.

4. All subscriptions paid in for the above stated object between June 14th and the 31st of December, 1885, may be credited, if desired, as included in or added to the Children's Day collection of any charge or charges from which they come, and in acknowledgment the Report for 1885 will be sent. Thus every new subscriber will receive two Reports before Children's Day, 1886, and thereafter one every year, so long as the subscription shall be paid in, either separately or in connection with an annual Children's Day collection.

5. In this manner it is desired to enroll a grand army of the friends of Christian education, the members of which will become mutually interested in each other, as well as in a cause which is closely connected with the progress of the kingdom of Christ upon earth, and which is practically at the foundation of every form of Christian effort and success for the years and ages to come.

N. B.—While the plan above proposed is believed to be good and feasible in all respects, yet it cannot be expected to succeed except where it can find some friend to put it in action. May we not, therefore, ask every person to whom this circular may come, in any periodical or in separate form, to make an effort to secure and report one or more annual subscribers as above proposed? Will not each pastor mention the subject favorably to his Sunday-school workers and to the members of his Committee on Education and others, requesting them to co-operate, and offering to send in all subscriptions secured?

In view of the expense that will be incurred for proper registry and printing, no names will be entered unless accompanied by the required remittance; and in view of having the printed list prepared with due care, the sooner subscriptions are forwarded the better. Address Rev. D. P. KIDDER, Corresponding Secretary, 805 Broadway, New York.

CHILDREN'S DAY, 1885.

The second century of the Methodist Episcopal Church was grandly and joyously opened on the 14th of June by the most extensive celebration of Children's Day yet known. Throughout the greater part of the United States the day itself was one of great beauty, and was welcomed as a special gift of Providence for the occasion. In some places the heat was excessive, and in a few, storms occurred; but as a whole the weather was never more favorable. Never before had the preparations been so timely and so general, and never before did the enthusiasm run higher.

Already many happy results are apparent, among which the following may be mentioned:

1. A handsome offering to the Children's Educational Fund. Just how large that offering will prove can only be told when the returns shall have fully come in. At present we hope that an aggregate increase will appear over that of last year, notwithstanding the fact of depressed business and hard times in many places.

2. A general rousing and quickening of the interest felt in Sunday-schools and Christian education.

3. The prompting of many worthy youth in various parts of the Church to aspire after higher culture.

4. An increased sense of connectional unity in the grand enterprises of the Church, to which Christian education is fundamental.

5. Noble and inspiring resolutions to prosecute the work of the Church during the second century of its history, with a zeal proportioned to the great advantages with which the century has been entered.

Any church or Sunday-school that failed to realize in its Children's Day observance most if not all these great and good objects fell short of its privilege, and should aim higher next time.

Both the secular and religious newspapers of all sections of the country printed enthusiastic notices of scenes that occurred in the local churches of those sections. As heretofore, we give brief extracts from our correspondence, and the notices sent us so arranged as to give a condensed PANORAMIC VIEW of what took place simultaneously in all parts of our widely extended Church. Of necessity, all descriptions of decorations are omitted, and, for the most part, all statements of moneys

collected for the fund. For the latter, reference must be made to our next annual Report, in which all the collections sent to the Board of Education will be duly credited.

Condensed Reports.

Geographically Arranged.

MAINE.

Children's Day was observed for the first time in the history of the Methodist church in Ogunquit. The pastor, Rev. J. H. Snow, preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion, to which the children listened with close attention. The concert by the Sunday-school in the evening drew a crowded house. Throughout, the day was one of rare interest, and gave a new impulse to the work on this charge.

Children's Day services at Augusta were very interesting. Pastor Bradlee made piety, under the figure of a tree, appear a delight to the children. The pastor's infant was baptized by Rev. C. Fuller. At the concert in the evening addresses were made by Rev. Brothers Bradlee, S. Allen, and C. Fuller.

The children's services in the three Methodist churches in Portland were especially interesting. Delegations from the Friends' Yearly Meeting were present at each of the Methodist churches, and assisted by their sermons and addresses to make the day a blessing to the children. Large and enthusiastic audiences were present at all these churches.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.

The Garden Street Church, Lawrence, observed the first Sabbath in June as their Children's Day. The services throughout were of an interesting character, and attended by large congregations.

VERMONT.

West Fairlee.

We had a grand day. We used the exercise prepared by the Board in the forenoon, and had a concert in the evening. We had large congregations. It brought out people that I have not seen at church for months. It does good. It brings the work of the Sunday-school before the public, and they see its workings and benefits. Nearly all the parents I talk with now want their children to come to Sabbath-school.

Our children did grandly at the concert. Some ungodly parents were delighted to have their children take part. I believe in Children's Day.

J. Hamilton.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Temple Street Church, Boston.

Children's Day in our church is the day of all days. There is no service held during the year that so interests the children and their parents, particularly the non-church-going parents. They all come out on that

day, and in some cases they have become so interested in the work as to connect themselves with the school.

I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to the "Manual of Hints and Helps." I believe that not only in our own school, but in general, it has been the means of giving to the day a more practical and distinct character.

A. CHALMERS.

ROSLINDALE.

On Children's Sunday, Bishop Mallalieu preached in the morning, Rev. J. A. Cass addressed the children in the afternoon, and a concert was given by the Sunday-school in the evening.

CLIFTONDALE.

Children's Day was appropriately observed. Rev. George Phinney, the pastor, gave an object-lesson sermon to the children in the morning, his subject being "Jesus the Light." The decorations consisted of a light-house nine feet high and a full-rigged floral yacht. An excellent concert in the evening followed the same line of instruction. Good collections were taken morning and evening.

SOUTH FRAMINGHAM.

Children's Day is described as a "red-letter day." Twenty-four children were received on probation at the morning service, and organized into a church class to be called the "Earnest Workers." The subject of the pastor's address was "The Two Ways." A large contribution was made to the Children's Fund.

IPSWICH.

An unusually interesting Children's Day service was held. The concert in the evening was one of the best ever given in the church. They report an average attendance of two hundred and twenty-four in the Sunday-school.

Children's day was duly observed in all of our churches in Worcester.

SPRINGFIELD.

Children's Day was very fittingly observed by the Methodist churches of Springfield. Elaborate and very beautiful floral decorations transformed the edifices into flower-gardens. To the children and their parents and friends the anniversary was one of unusual interest. Dr. Bradford K. Peirce spent the day with Grace Church. He preached in the morning, with his usual felicity, a sermon to the children, who were grouped in front of him. Dr. Rogers and Rev. Messrs. Skene and Simons preached appropriate sermons at their respective churches. The day closed with Children's Day concerts in the several churches, Dr. Peirce making a pleasant address in the State Street Church.

VINEYARD HAVEN.

Your programme for Children's Day—readings, hymns, music, and all—were superb, interesting, instructive, and inspiring. We had all the accessories, with recitations from scholars and brief addresses by the super-

intendent and the pastor, and yet the programme was none too long. The day was fine, and nothing seemed to be required to make the service perfect.

S. F. HARRIMAN.

MIDDLETON.

I inclose you our Children's Day collection. This is a new and little society, and this is the first collection ever sent for Children's Day. We shall do better for you next time. Children's Day was the grandest day of the whole year. We used the programme prepared by the Board. After examining all we could find, we concluded that was the best.

JAMES T. DOCKING.

RHODE ISLAND.

Children's Day was observed in many of the churches. Bright and happy children, beautiful plants and flowers in abundance, with cheerful exercises, attracted crowds.

At Haven Church the pastor, Rev. A. Anderson, preached to the children. In the evening, in the floral concert, Prof. George B. F. Hinckley addressed the school on the significance of the Children's Day. There were two hundred and forty-nine present in the Sunday-school—the largest in its history.

At the Thomson Methodist Church, Pawtucket, the pastor, Rev. J. Thompson, preached to the parents and children on "The Childhood of Jesus." In the evening a Sunday-school concert was given under the direction of the superintendent, Mr. A. S. Thompson.

At the High Street Church, Pawtucket, the pastor, Rev. G. W. Anderson, preached on "Child Culture and the Home." Superintendent A. J. Nickerson conducted an interesting concert in the evening.

CONNECTICUT.

PUTNAM.

We had a grand time on Children's Day. Gave the children the whole day. Used the responsive service in the morning, and had a floral concert in the evening. Full houses all day. The children were delighted with *their* day.

W. P. STODDARD.

NEW HAVEN.

The spacious Sunday-school room of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church was packed at the children's service yesterday afternoon. The special feature of the exercises was the baptism, by the Rev. Dr. Peck, of forty-two children. The usual services of the Sunday-school were shortened, and at three o'clock the parents of the infants who were to be baptized entered the Sunday-school room in a body and took their places about the altar railing. Taking the first baby in his arms, Dr. Peck baptized it in the form laid down in the Methodist ritual, and, kissing it, handed it back to its proud mother. This was repeated with the other five babies, and then the remaining thirty-six children, the oldest being under eight

years of age, knelt at the altar rail and were baptized. After the baptism Dr. Peck and Superintendent Armstrong made brief remarks. A collection was taken of $54 72.

MERIDEN.

Children's Day was one of the most delightful anniversary occasions in the history of Meriden Methodism. The seating capacity of the church, large as it is, failed to accommodate the audience either morning or evening, many being compelled to stand at each service. The handsome auditorium never looked handsomer, and when the Sunday-school came marching in through the galleries the scene was simply inspiring. The baptism of children was a beautiful feature of the morning service. A short sermon on education by the pastor and two recitations by Sunday-school scholars were followed by a noble collection. The evening exercises consisted of dialogues, recitations, and addresses, interspersed with hymns, anthems, and solos, the whole constituting a very enjoyable service.

J. S. BRECKINRIDGE.

NEW YORK.

PARK AVENUE.

The celebration of Children's Day at Park Avenue Church was beautifully successful. In addition to the collection for the Children's Educational Fund, a gentleman in the audience offered to prepare for college, free of expense, any young man preparing for the ministry who should be designated by the pastor, Dr. King.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR.

Children's Day was duly observed. In the morning the pastor, Dr. J. G. Oakley, preached an appropriate sermon. The attendance at the Sabbath-school was larger in the afternoon than it has ever been in the history of the church. The evening service was under the direction of Thomas A. Walker, Esq., superintendent of the school. It consisted of singing, recitations by scholars, and an address by the pastor. The church was full at each service.

EIGHTEENTH STREET.

Children's Day in this charge has always been interesting, profitable, and full of enjoyment, and this year there was no abatement. The floral decorations were in good taste and without profusion. The programme prepared by the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education was carried out. The pastor, after explaining the object of the day, urged the importance and value of an advanced education, and animadverted against the "craze" which carries our boys and girls at once into business after leaving the public schools. There were special exercises by some of the scholars, a delightful baptismal service, and what was specially unique, the Chinese pupils of the school gave recitations from the Scriptures. The collection and sale of Centenary Medals amounted to $60. We will long remember it as a gilt-edged day!

G. E. S.

THIRTY-FIFTH STREET.

Children's Day was an occasion of deep interest. A sermon was preached in the morning by the pastor. The singing and recitations in the afternoon and evening were very fine. W. C. SMITH.

THIRTIETH STREET.

This Sunday-school held a grand jubilee, lasting all day. In the morning the pastor, Rev. Clark Wright, preached a very instructive sermon to the children. At 3 P. M. the great service of the day was held, consisting of singing, recitations, and three stirring addresses by Chauncey Schaffer, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Sabine, and the Rev. Dr. Dickson. In the evening a responsive service was held, and the school was favored with an able address by the Rev. Dr. Backus. At all the services handsome collections for the Educational Fund were taken.

ASBURY.

A sermon relating to the subject of the day was preached in the morning by the pastor, the Rev. F. Bottome, and in the evening the church was jubilant with voice, song, and praise, by all departments of the large and flourishing Sunday-school.

GREENE AVENUE, BROOKLYN.

The day was enthusiastically observed. In the morning the pastor, Robert T. M'Nicholl, preached to the children. In the evening the exercises consisted of recitations and songs, selected chiefly from the MANUAL. The music was fine. The collection was large for the church. The audience-room was filled in the morning and crowded to overflowing in the evening. Each service was spoken of highly by visitors from other churches.

TABERNACLE, BROOKLYN, E. D.

On Children's Day, in the morning, there was the christening of several children. The Rev. P. Pilcher, of Brooklyn, delivered an address of great point and beauty. In the afternoon came the infant-class exercises, which helped greatly to kindle enthusiasm. A short address was made by Brother Bennett. At 7:30 the regular programme was carried out, with some modifications, conducted by superintendent James Mooney. The congregations were large throughout the day, and it was considered one of the grandest occasions of the sort ever enjoyed by this church.

MONSEY, ROCKLAND CO.

Taken throughout, it was the very best Children's Day in the history of these three charges, and we simply have to record every thing as grand and glorious. Collections about $20, against $1 reported last year.
J. A. CRAIG.

MARLBOROUGH.

Our Children's Day was a success, and enjoyed by large congregations A. M. and P. M. S. P. GALLAWAY.

KATONAH.

Our service was splendidly executed. Every body was delighted. The collection was good. W. S. WINANS, JR.

ASHLAND, GREENE CO.

Children's Day was observed with great pleasure. Your excellent programme was a great help. All were cheerful and happy. Some expressed a wish that the service might be held often. The day has a growing interest on this charge. GEORGE W. MARTIN.

DELHI.

Children's Day was duly observed on this charge. In the morning a sermon to the children was preached by the pastor. In the evening there were recitations by the children, followed by an address briefly stating the points in our Church history during its first hundred years. The children were greatly interested, and a useful impression made upon all.

G. HEARN.

ROCKWOOD AND EPHRATAH.

The "service" issued by Dr. Kidder was used at Ephratah, while selections, with appropriate music, filled the evening at Rockwood. Much interest was manifested. The collections will net about $7, besides the sale of twelve Centenary Medals, with many others yet to be ordered.

S. M'CHESNEY.

ARGYLE.

Children's Day was observed in a delightful and profitable manner. The day was devoted to Sunday-school and educational interests. The regular programme for Children's Day was used in the morning, imparting excellent information and much encouragement. It was a profitable day.

J. S. BRIDGFORD.

GLOVERSVILLE.

Children's Day was observed in the First Church with marked success. The service in the morning, under the charge of the Sunday-school, was very entertaining and profitable. The service of song in the evening was rich and delightful. Each service was enjoyed by a crowded congregation. The Children's Day collection, taken in the morning, amounted to $80.

FRANKFORT.

Find check for $41 04 inclosed, our Children's Day collection from this charge. We gave the children the whole day. Had large audiences and a good time. We made Christian education the central thought of the day, and sought to impress upon the children that they were doing something in this work, and to arouse some to seek the fullest education of our best schools. R. J. SMITH.

CANANDAIGUA.

Manly S. Hard, pastor. Children's Day was a perfect success. The exercises were of a high order, elevating and educating. The pastor made an appeal for education, and then came the collection. $45 were

given by the Sunday-school, and the congregation added enough to make it $150. All were so cheerful in giving and in enjoying, that the day could have been hardly other than the perfect success that it was.

ROCHESTER.

The First Church, in Rochester, N. Y., made of Children's Day a great success. Under the efficient generalship of E. Ocumpaugh, the superintendent of the Sunday-school, and Dr. Cushing, the pastor, the school went through the entire service prepared by Dr. Kidder, and added some exercises to it at the morning session. The method of taking the collection is worthy of imitation. The basket was placed in the altar, and the entire school marched in single file in front, dropping, individually, their contributions. At the close of the services the flowers were collected and made up into one hundred and fifty bouquets for the patients of a hospital. Dr. Hunt, of the Book Concern, was present and participated in the exercises.

BUSTI AND FARMINGTON.

Children's Day a lovely day; happy children; grand time; children's offering, $42 40. H. M. BURNS.

NEW JERSEY.

CENTENARY, JERSEY CITY.

The pastor preached in the morning from the text, "I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley"—a sermon that greatly edified lovers of the Saviour, old as well as young. In the afternoon addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. J. N. FitzGerald and the Rev. D. R. Lowrie. Happier speakers and hearers it would be hard to find. The hour of evening worship was given over to the children—but it was none the less worship for that. Every recitation was a Gospel message. And doubtless in many hearts sank spiritual lessons which would not have gone deeper than the ears if they had been spoken by other voices than those of the little ones, who, on this occasion, were turned into preachers. The collection to the Children's Fund was liberal. EDSON W. BURR.

PALISADE, JERSEY CITY.

In the morning the pastor preached to the children on "Self-government;" in the afternoon Mayor Collins, of Jersey City—a devout Baptist—spoke to the children; and in the evening the Rev. J. C. Thomas made an address on "Thoroughness." The services throughout the day were interspersed with beautiful songs and recitations. The collection was liberal, and parents and children alike happy. ELBERT CLEMENT.

WEST HOBOKEN.

This charge celebrated Children's Day on Sunday, June 21, in a very delightful and enthusiastic manner. The morning service consisted of baptism of children and preaching. In the afternoon and evening there were recitations, singing by the school, and addresses. In interest, attendance, and amount of collection, the day was far in advance of last year. GEORGE W. SERVIS.

PORT MONMOUTH.

Children's Day is now so well established that little may be said by way of explanation. The day, with its customary programme, is already well understood, and is eagerly looked forward to by young and old. But to the young people it is the greatest of all days in the ecclesiastical year. A day of birds and flowers and music and speeches, and a general good time—a feast for body and soul, and should be to all a symbol and reminder of the great day on high with its riches and enjoyments. The second Sabbath of June has been permanently fixed by the General Conference as Children's Day throughout Methodism. Last Sabbath, Port Monmouth joined 21,000 Sunday-schools and 2,000,000 teachers and scholars in the celebration of the day. What I have to say may be recorded under two thoughts:

I. *What the school gave.* Morning and evening services were held. In the early service singing predominated, and the pastor gave an address on the subject of "Christian Education," closing with a statistical report of the grand results secured in this and foreign lands by the Educational Fund.

The evening service was the most important one of the day. At 7:30 o'clock, the school marched to the church in a body, where it gave a very pleasant entertainment to a crowded house. Quite a number of Sunday-school workers, young and old, spoke or read appropriate selections. These are some of the things given by the school.

II. *What the school received.* We mention a few: 1. Just as much pleasure as it is possible for persons to enjoy. 2. Larger, broader, and better views of Church work. 3. A glance at the possibilities for individual success and usefulness. 4. Aspirations to rise in the world and Church to loftier and better positions. 5. Last, but not least, the collection for Children's Day Fund. The aggregate was far in advance of any previous year. The universal testimony is that it was a day very profitably and pleasantly spent, and in entering upon another year of work we resolve to be more earnest and devoted. ONE OF THE CHILDREN.

CLAYTON.

Thirty children, ranging from four months to four years of age, were baptized by the pastor at Trinity Church. It was a beautiful sight—one rarely witnessed. R. THORN, JR.

SWEDESBORO.

Children's Day was duly observed at the Methodist Episcopal church. The pulpit recess, platform, and altar were most tastefully arranged and decorated with flowers, laurel, birds, and potted plants. The pastor, in the morning, standing in the midst, preached from this appropriate text, "I am come into my garden." The Church the garden of God, and the Sunday-school the most interesting and important part of the garden. The nursery, conservatory, hot-house, for the carefully starting, training, and preparing for greater and wider fields. Six children were presented

at the altar for consecration of baptism. Two adults were also baptized, and one adult joined the church on probation. The evening service was devoted to special exercises by the school, under the direction of John H. Zippler, the faithful superintendent. The congregations were large all day. This is the only day in the year which calls for the opening of the gallery of our church. Children's Day is becoming more reasonable and practical. It should be made, we think, outside of the great educational interest, a special time looked forward to and prepared for the consecration of children by baptism and reception into the Church.

VINELAND.

The Children's Day was observed quite generally here. The Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Congregational churches all had exercises suitable to the occasion. It inspires no jealous feeling to see other churches and Sunday-schools profiting by the example of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this, as in many other respects. It will afford pleasure to all good Methodists should all the Protestant Sunday-schools in the Christian world observe the second Sunday in June of each year as Children's Day, and still more if the observance should be in the interest of Christian education. At the morning service in the Methodist church eight children were given to God in holy baptism. The pastor made an address on the educational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the progress of that work was outlined from the very organization of the Church to the present time. The education collection was taken in the morning, and at the evening service the children made their offering to the Children's Fund. All in the large congregations seemed delighted. Flowers were sent to the sick at the close of service.

CAPE MAY CITY.

Our Children's Day was a great success. Taken altogether it was one of the grandest days I have ever seen. J. H. HUTCHINSON.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Children's Day was quite generally observed by our churches and Sunday-schools in the Philadelphia Conference. The decorations were, as a rule, very beautiful. The speaking was varied, interesting, and instructive; the singing superb; and the result of the day, in interest, in spiritual profit, and in aid of the Education Fund, all that could be expected. We are glad that this beautiful service has been inaugurated, and that it has been taken hold of so enthusiastically by both churches and Sunday-schools. It will add interest to the Sunday-school work, and will greatly increase the fund for the education of worthy young men for the ministry and for other important positions in the Church and the community.—*Philadelphia Methodist.*

MIDDLETOWN, DAUPHIN CO.

The exercises were well rendered, and all participating appeared to do their best to make the occasion one of rejoicing. An item in the programme calculated to make the occasion memorable was an address by

his excellency, Governor Pattison. After being introduced by the superintendent, the governor addressed the children on "The Importance of Little Things." Some of the readers of "The Christian Advocate" may need to be informed that the governor of the great State of Pennsylvania is as much at home in the society and work of the Sunday-school as he was when he was a plain private citizen. All honor to him and to the memory of his sainted parents, who directed his feet to the sanctuary of God.

M. GRAVES.

HUMMELSTOWN.

One of the prettiest sights in the beautiful Lebanon Valley was seen yesterday in the Hummelstown M. E. Church. In the midst of pleasant surroundings we held our Children's Day services. In the morning a sermon was preached by the pastor on "The Training of Children." In the afternoon we held our Sunday-school, and in the evening the main exercises were held, in which the Sunday-school participated. The exercises consisted of recitations by members of the school, and singing by choir and children. Some special features of the occasion were the forming of a cross of flowers by nineteen children during the singing of "At the Cross I'll Abide," and receiving contributions from the classes and placing them in little baskets suspended to a ladder covered with evergreens and flowers. We had a good congregation in the morning, a large Sunday-school in the afternoon, and a crowded house in the evening. The exercises reflected credit upon the participants and managers, and the collection for educational purposes is in advance of preceding years. Children's Day has grown in favor and interest every year of our pastorate in this place, and in our third and last year we can truly say this is the best and most successful of them all. We praise the Lord for all blessings.

GEORGE ALCORN.

BRYN MAWR.

Children's Day at the old Radnor Charge was held yesterday, and was even better than last year. We used your programme, adding recitations and exercises by the children. I also selected about thirty questions from the Catechism, giving connectedly important doctrines, which, with Golden Texts, lessons on Scripture history, etc., our school recited remarkably well. On the whole, Children's Day with us was a Methodist means of grace of great spiritual helpfulness. I inclose herewith the collection, $9, an advance upon last year's outside of medals.

CHARLES ROADS.

DILLSBURG, YORK CO.

The amount of our Children's Day collection taken yesterday is $31, for which amount please find draft on Philadelphia—this being a small increase on last year. The day was very appropriately observed by us. Our people are growing more and more in love with the Children's Day, its object and work. We are all in sympathy with Children's Educational Fund, and while I think our collection creditable, I could wish it were larger.

J. F. ANDERSON.

MARTINSBURG, BLAIR CO.

A full day was given yesterday on Martinsburg Charge, Altoona District, Central Pennsylvania Conference, to the cause of education, including the two principal appointments. We used in the Sunday-schools the programme arranged by yourself, with great satisfaction to all who were present. Our churches were appropriately decorated. The audiences were in both cases as large as the buildings would conveniently hold, and the collections—the scholars, old and young, marching by twos past the decorated basket set in front of the altar, and depositing their contributions therein—were extremely gratifying. At the public services I preached on the text, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. iv, 6), and lifted the public collections for the cause. In all we took up four collections, aggregating the creditable sum of $20. All persons unite in declaring our Children's Day this year unprecedented for delightfulness and success. W. A. CARVER.

VERONA.

Large attendance at Children's Day service; plenty of music and flowers; all the classes in the Sunday-school represented on the programme; short addresses; collection, $16, an advance over last year. A. FREEMAN.

SANDY LAKE.

For the second time in this place Children's Day was observed, with great pleasure and profit. W. W. MOSSMAN.

ESPYVILLE.

Children's Day observed with appropriate services; eleven of the Centennial medals distributed; collections amounted to $12. M. V. STONE.

PARDOE.

It is with pleasure and gratitude to God that I forward to you $30 11, as the collection from the Sunday-schools of Pardoe Charge for the Children's Educational Fund. This includes the amount received for eight medals. Children's Day was observed with great pleasure and profit to old and young. The success of the occasion is largely owing to the united labors of the pastor and the Sunday-schools in preparing for it. It has been our privilege to observe the day for several years past, but we never saw churches so finely decorated and people so fully interested in the subject as they were at this time. We began early in the season to inform the church and Sunday-schools of the design in observing Children's Day, and, by special effort, a copy of the "Red Letter" was put into every family represented in the schools. As an example of the interest aroused, I give you the following facts: Two little girls hired themselves out, one to aid in planting corn, and the other picked stones for two days, in order to obtain a contribution of their own for the Children's Educational Fund. Under the circumstances we regard these cases as instances of real interest in and love for the cause of education. Our success this year is so gratifying that we shall hail the return of another Children's Day with increased pleasure. J. M. CROUCH.

SOUTH STREET, PITTSBURG.

Children's Day was appropriately observed. The morning sermon was appropriate to the day, the children of the Sabbath-school leading the singing. The afternoon was given to the service prepared by Dr. Kidder. In the evening a praise-service was held. The house was packed at all three services, and a good collection was obtained. G. T. REYNOLDS.

ARCH STREET, ALLEGHENY.

The most elaborate programme; the church was handsomely decorated; in the responsive exercises representatives of the various classes brought forward bouquets, which, when placed on a frame-work covered with moss, made a beautiful anchor. After songs by a class of little girls, and an address by the pastor, the collection was taken, which amounted to $65 57. H. C. BEACOM.

MARYLAND.

Children's Day is a beautiful arrangement, and has grown into a permanent institution. More generally than ever has it been celebrated this year, and our people have not wanted in the enthusiasm of the occasion. In the Baltimore Conference the programmes were in numerous instances specially prepared by the superintendents and pastors, and were wholly executed by the children themselves. The flowers, decorations, birds, mottoes, songs, and speeches gladdened thousands and tens of thousands of "our young people" and "our old people," and no doubt gladdened the heart of Him who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."—*Baltimore Methodist.*

Children's Day services were observed in most of our churches on June 14. A few had anticipated the appointed day by one week, and in some circuits, where all the churches could not celebrate simultaneously, they were held June 21. Yet, in the main, our people have kept step with the general Church in the custom (a good one, and constantly growing in favor) of setting apart one Sabbath in common for the interests of Christian education. At all places heard from "the exercises were of special interest," and where all were appropriate, beautiful, and modeled on the same idea, how shall I distinguish? It would be invidious to name some and describe all; the time (and the adjectives) would fail me. The summarization of reports made to the Preachers' Meeting, published in the "Baltimore Methodist" and the secular prints, and received through personal information, is that the day was more generally, enthusiastically, and satisfactorily observed than ever in the past. I hope the treasury of the Board of Education may be correspondingly benefited, but fear our schools are, many of them at least, appropriating Dr. Kidder's good plan to their own local purposes.—*Baltimore Correspondent of The Christian Advocate.*

REMARK.—It is the official plan of the Church that is violated when Children's Day collections are appropriated to local objects.

WHATCOAT, BALTIMORE.

The entire day was given to the children. The services commenced at 8:30 A. M. with a Sunday-school prayer-meeting, where the blessing of God was invoked upon all the members of the school, that they might be brought to the Saviour. The morning sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. W. F. Ward, to the parents of the children; the music was rendered by the school. The main service was held at 8 o'clock P. M., the exercises being conducted exclusively by the children. The church was crowded, many being unable to obtain seats. Upon the pulpit platform was a huge rock, at the top of which stood an immense cross, the whole being sixteen feet high. A stream of water, gushing from the top of the rock, flowed over it, and sprayed the flowers around it.

TOWSON, BALTIMORE CO.

Children's Day services were held three times in our church yesterday. The speaking, recitations, singing, and decorations were of the highest order. The church was densely packed at night. All unite in pronouncing the efforts a glorious success. WATSON CASE.

LUTHERVILLE.

Children's Day was celebrated at St. John's Church, Lutherville. The pastor preached to the children in the morning. In the afternoon the services were particularly interesting. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the bright, joyous faces of the little ones showed their appreciation of the efforts of kind friends for their happiness. The programme arranged by Dr. Kidder was carried out in a very creditable manner by the school. Notwithstanding the extreme heat all entered heartily into the exercises.

ELLICOTT CITY.

Our Children's Day was a great success—large congregations, and every body delighted. The children's offerings amounted to $10, after deducting for expenses. It was our general educational day, and the preparations were most pleasing and complete. We had three services, and the basket collections for the day were the best ever known.

E. RICHARDSON.

ANNAPOLIS, FIRST CHARGE.

Sabbath, the 21st inst., was observed as Children's Day, The decorations were abundant and chaste. The carols of the school were finely rendered, also the responsive readings provided by the Board of Education. Masters Bernie Hopkins and Frank Leech delivered addresses which greatly gratified the audience. The pastor delivered an address, also, on "The Higher Education of Youth," and the large results attained and yet to come through the fund provided in connection with Children's Day. A pleasant episode was the presentation, by the pastor, of solid silver Centenary Medals, set in beautiful morocco cases, to Hon. James Munroe, superintendent, and Professor W. H. Hopkins. These gentlemen have labored from youth in the Sabbath-school and church, and with rare

fidelity. They were completely surprised by the presentation, but made most happy and touching responses. To crown all a generous offering of between fifteen and twenty dollars was received from the congregation toward the funds of the Board of Education.

MAGOTHY.

Our Children's Day passed off pleasantly. The children turned out well and manifested a deep interest in the exercises of the day. A number of adults of the congregation were equally interested, and by their gifts helped to swell the Children's Fund. The pastor preached on the subject of "Christian Education" in the morning, taking for his text "Feed my lambs." JULIUS SOPER.

MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT.

I had the pleasure of introducing Children's Day on this circuit last year. The people take to it enthusiastically. I pray that its observance may increase in interest from year to year. A. H. THOMPSON.

MIDDLETOWN CIRCUIT.

Children's Day was observed, June 14, at Middletown, three services being held during the day. In the morning the pastor preached on "Education and the Church," emphasizing the obligation of the Church to take an active part in the education of the youth. At 2:30 o'clock, in the afternoon, the children of the school held special services, consisting of singing, recitations, responsive readings, etc. A crowded house testified to the increasing popular interest in this festival day. At night a sermon was preached by the pastor on the important topic, "Choosing a Life-work." The day was altogether a success, and it is hoped that much good was accomplished for education and pure religion.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

METROPOLITAN, WASHINGTON.

Children's Day was celebrated by a varied and attractive programme, entirely filled by members of the Sunday-school, at 11 A. M. The commodious auditorium was most beautifully decorated with flowers, banners, birds, etc. At 7 P. M. Rev. Dr. Huntley received into full membership twenty-eight probationers, many of them young people. Also, a number of heads of families, the fruit of the gracious revival the church experienced last fall.

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON.

The entire day was given to the children's service. In the morning the "Opening Century Service," modified by omitting some of the responsive readings and by introducing recitations and other exercises, was well rendered. Two parts, one by seven little girls—"The Floral Offering"—and the other by five larger girls—"His Banner over Me was Love"—gave great pleasure. In the former part each girl held a bouquet which, after the recitation of a verse appropriate to the kind of flowers composing the bouquet, was placed on a large cross in the rear. The flowers carried by the larger girls were also placed in the cross, making, when all the

bouquets were arranged, a cross of flowers. This cross stood under a large arch covered with flowers and bearing the words, in gilt letters, "Children's Day." At night the service was unique. It was a "Wesley Memorial Concert Service." It consisted of music, all taken from the Hymnal, and written by John or Charles Wesley; recitations of hymns by three children; a solo, hymn No. 722, by Miss Annie Street; an address, "The Wesley Family," by the pastor; essay, "John and Charles Wesley," by Miss Hattie Stryker; and reading, "Extracts from John Wesley's Journal," by Mrs. M. J. Foxwell. The design of the pastor and superintendent in arranging this service was to arouse an interest among the children and young people of the school in the history of the Church and the lives of its founders. Special stress was laid upon the fact that the Wesleys were thoroughly educated; that the Church founded by them believes in educating her children, hence our Children's Fund and hence Children's Day. Children's Day is truly the "red-letter" day of the year in this young but growing charge.

WEST VIRGINIA.

MARTINSBURG.

The second Sunday in June was a joyous time with us. In the morning the children conducted the singing in the congregational service, and were addressed by the pastor. In the evening the order of exercises arranged by the committee was carried out, to the delight of the large audience present. The recitations and songs of the little ones pleased every body. The request of the pastor that each scholar should bring a dime for the collection was not forgotten.

SHEPHERDSTOWN.

The Methodist Episcopal Sunday-school celebrated Children's Day with appropriate and interesting services. In the morning at 10.30 the pastor preached on "The Religious Training of Children." At 8 P. M. the Sunday-school rendered the "Programme for Children's Day, 1885," and an opening century service, with the addition of several recitations, solos, duets, etc.

CLIFTON.

I herewith inclose $6, the amount of Children's Day collection. Pastor, parents, and children wish it were tenfold more, yet it is large when you consider our financial condition. Our people have had but a little more than two months' work since Conference (October). Our prayers accompany our mite.

J. ENGLE.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

ANDERSON.

I inclose herewith postal money-order for $11 20. The exercises of Children's Day were carried out according to the programme, with additional addresses by twenty boys and girls, four young ladies, and two gentlemen. The services included the afternoon and evening, with an interval of two hours. The exercises were heartily enjoyed by every one. There

is a growing interest in Children's Day. The little ones, feeling that the Church is specially interested in them, are manifesting more and more interest in the Church. The conception of this institution is a noble one, and is destined, if observed in the proper spirit, to tell on the coming generations in their knowledge of Church history and of God. It will also stimulate our brethren of other Churches to "be up and doing." Every colored church in the city found it necessary to observe similar services on the second Sunday in June, in order to hold the young people and children. If you knew the poverty of our people here, and their struggles to sustain themselves and their church, you would appreciate fully the amount collected. We number only 150 members and probationers. Our Sunday-school numbers 140, and has been out of winter quarters only seven weeks. Our people erected the most beautiful church in the city without exception last year, and already this year we have built and now occupy a neat parsonage. There had to be many sacrifices to do this by both minister and people. We have not received $100 yet this year to support a family of six persons. But O, it is so sweet to make these sacrifices for the dear Saviour's sake! J. B. MIDDLETON.

BARNWELL.

Children's Day in Barnwell was carried out appropriately and successfully. Many were present to hear the speeches and dialogues. The children of the Baptist Connection took an active part in the exercises.

NELSON C. DAVIES.

CLOVER.

I think that it would be doing a great injustice to this charge and to the public not to inform you of the high appreciation of Children's Day here. It is not too much to say that Children's Day was a success on this charge. The programme was never used here ere now, and the children and older people enjoyed the responsive reading much indeed. We trust that this little "Child of Providence" will still grow in favor with the whole world.

A. D. HARRIS.

MARION.

As usual with us at Bethel Church, the Children's Day was a success. The programme was carried out to the letter. The speaking of the children was extra good, they having been well trained. The church was decorated beautifully with flowers and evergreens. The singing was good, led by our chorister. Nearly every one connected with our church or Sabbath-school has been raised up within our church within the past fifteen years. This we consider extraordinary when I inform you that this church was organized amid great opposition by Rev. J. B. Middleton eighteen years ago, with seven little children, in an old blacksmith's shop near the spot where the church now stands. Two, at least, of those "little children," though mothers, are still members of the Sabbath-school, with their children in one class and they in another. A medal was presented to our chorister for his efficiency in the discharge of his duty. You will hear from the other churches at an early date. A. MIDDLETON.

FLORIDA.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

Our collection for the Educational Fund which we raised on Children's Day was $12, which for this new field was a grand success, and especially in the summer, when all the visitors are gone. C. C. M'LEAN.

JACKSONVILLE.

Trinity Church in Jacksonville made a red-letter day of their services on the 14th of June. Flowers were brought in abundantly. Special music was prepared and efficiently rendered by the pastor's wife and her assistants. Speeches were delivered by members of the school, and the pastor, S. D. Paine, gave one of his best addresses to a crowded house on Sabbath evening on the relation of the Church to the vital question of education, her interest in the welfare of the young people in her communion, and her determination to provide them, when too poor themselves, the best advantages this advanced civilization affords.

Similar services were also held in the Ebenezer Church, Jacksonville, in our two churches in St. Augustine, in Fernandina, King's Ferry, De Land, Orange City, Gainesville, and in many others. Our interest is growing in every department of church work, but none gives us more pleasure than the services on the second Sabbath in June of each returning year.

S. B. DARNELL.

GEORGIA

ST. MARY'S.

We did all that was in our power to make Children's Day this year a grand success. We appreciated the programmes highly, for they added life and beauty to our services. Both old and young enjoyed the music and responsive readings. We indeed had a grand time, and feel encouraged to go on in the good work. J. W. FISHER.

ALABAMA.

LA FAYETTE.

Yesterday was celebrated by us as Children's Day. I am sorry to say that our collections were small, but by having the influence of the Holy Spirit with us we had a nice and grand time. Some of the children, and even one of the superintendents and three teachers, said that they would like to be in Children's Day every Sabbath if it were possible.

J. S. TODD.

MISSISSIPPI.

MERIDIAN.

We collected for Education on Children's Day, $15 65.

J. D. WALDEN.

QUITMAN.

We had a grand time on our Children's Day. It was a gala day for the little people. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and sweet flowers. At 9 A. M. we were all seated in the school, when

we went through with our regular services; after which many verses of Scripture were recited, with singing. At 11.50 A. M. we preached to the children, and thus ended a grand day for the cause of Methodism and education. L. J. S. BELL.

LOUISIANA.

NATCHITOCHES.

We observed Children's Day, and carried out the programme to the letter. It shows a marked improvement each successive year. Children's Day in our church is coming to the front, and is destined to be a day of jubilee throughout our Methodism—a day in which the Sunday-schools show up their fruit. God bless its originators! H. J. WRIGHT.

TEXAS.

DALLAS.

We are just on the point of dedicating our new church. Our present temporary quarters are very cramped and inconvenient, which is the reason that our Children's Day collection is not larger. We used the "Helps and Hints" and programmes, gleaning from each. Had our regular Sunday-school and lesson at 10 A. M., children's sermon at 11 A. M., anniversary exercises at 8 P. M. All were well pleased, and we believe the interest will increase from year to year. F. N. FOOT.

BRENHAM.

Children's Day was observed on my charge on 14th and 21st. The results of the exercises were glorious. It occupied the entire days. G. W. Young, superintendent, had the school well prepared to carry out the programme. The scholars sang the pieces on it nicely, and the sessions were greatly enjoyed by all present. We had a convert at each session. One sinner fell under conviction during the sermon, and was truly converted. WILLIS H. JACKSON.

HALLETTSVILLE.

Children's Day was observed here for the first time. Old and young took part together and we had a nice time, taking a collection of $7.
G. W. TOWNSEND.

DENISON.

Master Harry O'Dair declaimed on the origin, history, and purpose of Children's Day, at the children's service, so well as to leave the presiding elder, who was to speak on that occasion, almost without a speech.

LAWRENCE.

Sunday morning brought troops of bright-faced and happy-hearted children until every seat in the house was filled. The printed programmes were used, and both children and parents entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. A good collection was taken for Christian education, and thus ended, with great satisfaction to all, the first Children's Day celebration at Lawrence.

ARKANSAS.

Wesley Chapel, Little Rock, Rev. W. S. Lankford, pastor, celebrated Children's Day with fine success, and sent in $15 to the Educational Fund.

TENNESSEE.

SUNBRIGHT, MORGAN CO.

I was appointed last fall by the Holston Annual Conference to Kingston Circuit, where the people seemed entire strangers to the idea of Children's Day; had never had such services held on their work. However, with the literature sent me, I posted them as best I could, and we held three Children's Day services. The houses were all well decorated, and the singing and declamation were splendid. The people were taken by surprise in reference to the children's offerings. Several persons remarked to me after the services were over that when we have another Children's Day they will contribute much more. O that our ministers would all become wide-awake to the interest of Children's Day! A. B. WRIGHT.

NASHVILLE.

We had a delightful Children's Day. The programme, besides being attractive, was full of wholesome instruction. The church was handsomely decorated with flowers. The Children's Day on this charge was one of precious delight and joy to all.

KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE.

Children's Day was anticipated in Trinity Church, owing to the fact that summer is an early visitor in Louisville. The entire programme as provided by the Church was fully carried out on Sunday morning, May 30. There was a good congregation, and all were delighted with the exercises. A good collection for the Children's Educational Fund was gathered. Five children were baptized, and one young man joined on probation.

DAYTON.

We held three services during the day, each in the interest of Christian education, and at no service could we accommodate the people. The Church must certainly realize large results in the future from her investments in this Children's Day idea. S. G. POLLARD.

OHIO.

WALNUT HILLS, CINCINNATI.

Most of the charges in my district (East Cincinnati) have given *special* attention to Children's Day—well named and of growing good.

D. J. STARR, *Presiding Elder.*

SPRINGFIELD.

St. Paul's Church has taken a lively interest in Children's Day since its organization. In 1883 and 1884 the collections were the largest of any in

the Cincinnati Conference. At its return on Sunday week preparations had been made, if possible, to surpass all previous occasions. The service of the morning turned upon the theme of education, on which the pastor, Rev. Henry Tuckley, preached. But the service of the day in which the chief interest had centered was that of the evening. In addition to the floral decoration of the day, and casting over it a novel luster, was the motto, "Christ is King," arched over the choir gallery and behind the pulpit, formed by gas-jet illumination. From the platform was rendered the programme, consisting of songs by the school, anthems by the choir, recitations and dialogues, an address by the pastor, and a beautiful arrangement for receiving the offerings of classes. Near the close of the service the collection was taken in a striking and beautiful manner. A decorated double ladder was brought out, spread like the outline of a pyramid, and after being dedicated to its purpose by having the motto, "Christian Education," labeled on its front as above described, a member of each class came forward, bringing in a bouquet-basket the offering of his class to the beneficent object expressed by the motto, and hung it to the rounds of the ladder. In this manner passed the most enjoyable Children's Day within the history of this church.

DAYTON.

Children's Day at St. Paul's Church, T. Collett, pastor, was a great success. Seventeen young persons were baptized, large congregations attended each of the three services, and liberal collections were taken.

WELLINGTON.

At Wellington, Rev. N. S. Albright, pastor, the day was celebrated with increased interest. The children filled the choir gallery and sang at the morning service. The sermon was preached to the children. At the close of the sermon five infants were baptized. The Sabbath-school numbered 441, and the collection amounted to $28.

BURTON.

Children's Day a success again. Never brighter or better. Collection about the same as last year, excepting medals. G. F. OLIVER.

BARNESVILLE.

Children's Day was observed in this charge with increased interest. The collection amounted to $13, an advance on that of last year. The exercises of the day consisted of a sermon to the children at the morning hour by the pastor, after which infant baptism was administered. Beautiful and appropriate recitations and addresses were rendered in the afternoon by members of the Sunday-school, and the day closed with a sermon at night to young men by the pastor. S. L. BINKLEY.

CLEVELAND.

Children's Day was generally observed. The audiences were unusually large and the exercises varied and highly entertaining. The collections for education were not neglected, and will be up to former years. The

children performed their parts well, and contributed to enliven the occasion with happy songs and choruses. The services differed in the several churches; some having processional and cantata exercises, some observing the sacrament of infant baptism, while others had sermons or addresses appropriate to the occasion.

INDIANA.

The Third Street Church, Indianapolis, observed the day, the pastor preaching to the children in the morning. The afternoon was wholly given to the children, while the regular printed programme was carried out at night. All the services was under the leadership of the superintendent, J. B. M'Neely.

At Vincennes the programme of the Educational Society was used, with the addition of recitations and songs by the infant classes. The joy of the children, the fragrance of the flowers, and the rich warbling of the birds, mingling together, gave a charm to the occasion seldom equaled. It was emphatically the day of the year. The collection for the Children's Educational Fund amounted to $16 50. Rev. W. H. Grim is the pastor.

ILLINOIS.

MONTICELLO.

Our Children's Day was a brilliant affair. The exercises were of such a character as to educate the children to love the day and the cause of education. Collection largely in advance of any other year.

E. A. HAMILTON.

BUNKER HILL.

Our Children's Day was a success. I baptized five children during the morning service. The people were delighted and instructed by the children. I am sure Children's Day will be hailed with delight in the future. Children's Day with us was a remarkable day. John Wesley was born June 14; I was born June 14; Children's Day occurred this year on June 14; so there was much for us to praise God for. C. P. WILSON.

Sunday, June 14, on Hawthorne Charge, Southern Illinois Conference, was a red-letter day. The three schools of the charge met at Big Prairie Church, and all joined heartily in the exercises of the day, which consisted of the regular printed programme, well supplemented by addresses, etc., a basket dinner, a general handshaking and reunion, and the collection, which was $11 40. D. J. LITTLE.

The day was observed by our church at Altamont with a vim. A programme was prepared by the pastor for the morning service, consisting of short addresses about boys and girls spoken of in the Bible. This was an exceedingly interesting service. At 2.30 P. M. we used the programme service, and afterward the school, numbering 250, marched to the City Park. A more orderly set of children was never seen. In the evening the children gave a spiritual concert to an audience of more than 500.

SILAS P. CHAPIN.

This service is growing in favor in Atlanta, and the observance of the day on Sunday, June 14, largely increased the favor in which it is held. Dr. Kidder's programme was pronounced most complete.

G. CUNNINGHAM.

Children's Day was observed at Mt. Auburn this year for the first time. In the morning old and young assembled at the school-house, near the church, where they formed into line, each class bearing an appropriate banner. The march to the church was a beautiful sight; the church was nicely decorated. The regular programme was used. GEO. SHAKE.

Children's Day was observed at Elwood. Rev. Joseph Caldwell, pastor, preached a sermon in the morning on "Parental Responsibility." In the evening the church was filled to overflowing, the children rendering very successfully the programme prepared by Dr. Kidder. The pastor delivered an address on education, and made a statement of the origin, aim, and what the Educational Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church had done for the young people of America. A liberal collection was taken for the Children's Educational Fund.

The day was a grand success in the First Church, Peoria. The church was profusely decorated, and the auditorium crowded with people, the children occupying the center. It was a children's service in the fullest sense. The collection, taken by six little girls, was the largest ever taken here for the Educational Society. The services were profitable in every respect.

Church decoration on Children's Day is frequently very costly, often amounting to more than the collection; but the church at Pekin was most beautifully adorned with mottoes, flowers, crosses, festoons, harps, etc., "without money and without price," and the collection one hundred per cent. in advance of last year. A beautiful programme was rendered by the children, and, notwithstanding the rainy evening, there was a large audience to hear it.

The First Church of Rock Island had a good time. The morning service was given to the school. Miss Bennett, as president of the day, had charge of the exercises—singing, speaking, and, of course, the collection. All enjoyed the services. Children's Day is the gala day of the church.

At Galva the day was observed with more than usual interest. The entire day was taken up with the exercises. The rain hindered many, but the house was full at both services. The collection was larger than last year. The programme sent out by the Board of Education was used, with the addition of exercises by many of our Sunday-school scholars.

The day was a grand success in Amboy. The church was beautifully decorated. There was an appropriate sermon by the pastor in the morning, and excellent recitations by the little folks and music in the evening. The congregations were large and well pleased.

In M'Henry the church was beautifully decorated by many willing hands. On the rostrum, with a background of flowers, was a bed of moss on which the word "Jesus" was represented in large letters of small white flowers. This name, with Christian education, was the inspiration of the entire exercises, morning and evening. There were large audiences and liberal collections.

The day was observed at Minonk successfully. A wealth of flowers and evergreens, woven into many devices and fantastic shapes, turned the church into a fairy dell. The children came early in troops, filled with the spirit of the day. The programme, "The Opening Century," was used both morning and evening. The people read and sang from its pages, dropping in recitations, class exercises, and readings, by the children and young people. A happy feature was the putting of old tunes to the words, as it enabled all to sing without much previous practice. The collection was fifty per cent. better than last year.

Children's Day at Flora Station was in every way satisfactory. The weather was propitious, the floral decorations beautiful, the attendance large, and the interest general. Collection, $29. J. B. RAVENSCROFT.

CLAYTON.

A pleasant feature of our Children's Day exercises was receiving into full membership in the Church some thirty-seven probationers—men, women, and children. I think all felt it was the best of many such days our church here has had. May the results be enduring!

M. P. WILKIN.

NEWTON.

Beautiful morning, delightful services. We used the official programme. It was well and very impressively rendered. I send herewith our offering to the Children's Educational Fund. May God's blessing be upon all the gifts of the year! J. W. FIELD.

PHILO.

I think there was greater interest taken this year in Children's Day than ever before. Congregations were large, children were happy, collections good, and every body more than pleased. Every thing passed off as pleasantly as any thing could. ROBERT STEPHENS.

SHIRLAND.

Our Children's Day was a grand success. We had exercises here morning and evening, also at an out appointment in the afternoon. Unusual interest throughout the day. The weather was bad, but did not dampen our enthusiasm. Our churches were well filled, even crowded at night. The singing was superb; the recitations, etc., excellent; decorations very fine. We used the official programme entire, and were much pleased with it. R. A. HARWOOD.

LOVINGTON.

Our Sunday-school for the first time observed the Children's Day, and did so well that for the future I think they will be up with the times. Every body seemed to enjoy it. M. H. BUTLER.

FREEPORT.

We had a very pleasant and profitable Children's Day service at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The exercises were had at the usual hour of morning service, and consisted in responsive readings and selections, mostly from the "Manual of Hints and Helps," with singing. We used the programme prepared by the Church, and found it a help in getting the object of the day before the minds of all. We used the "Red Letter" as a card of invitation. Twelve Centenary Medals were subscribed for. There was a sermon to young people in the evening.

O. F. MATTISON.

MICHIGAN.

ST. CLAIR,

Children's Day was indeed glorious, one of the most beautiful ever made. Church beautifully decorated, and the exercises were delightful. The great audience went away saying that it was good to be there. The morning exercises consisted of speaking and singing, and at night a sermon was preached to the children. JACOB HORTON.

ADRIAN.

We had a good day. The object is grand and recommends itself to the people. I explained the nature and design of Children's Day, and the people seemed much pleased with the idea. There should be a general rally all along the line. We are working for the future, and our work will speak for us when we are dead. JOHN WILSON.

OXFORD.

Inclosed find my Children's Day collection, $7. The "Opening Century Service" was a success, and the children, old and young, enjoyed the exercises ever so much. I think the Church is entering more into the spirit of this work every year. What a grand impetus it will receive when the children of to-day push it, as they will, when they reach manhood and womanhood, with the inspiration and training they are getting now!

H. W. HICKS.

QUINCY.

The observance of Children's Day was a grand success. The entire day was given to the children. In the morning a sermon was preached to the children, and in the afternoon the Children's Day exercises were held. The attendance was large. God was with us. Our church was handsomely decorated, and the programme rendered in a most pleasing manner. The collection was larger than that of any previous year.

L. GROSENBAUGH.

WISCONSIN.

Summerfield Church, Milwaukee, put great emphasis this year upon Children's Day, giving all day to the children with three services. The church was beautifully decorated, and the audiences were very large.

The service at Grand Avenue Church, Milwaukee, was as follows: Sabbath morning, nine children and ten adults were baptized, seventeen received into full connection, and address by the pastor. In the afternoon, address. In the evening the programme was by the children. The congregations packed the church, and the collections were large.

The day was observed in Beloit. In the morning the exercises consisted of declamation, songs, readings, and infant baptism, followed by an address by G. F. Reynolds. In the evening the Sunday-school gave an interesting programme of responsive readings, declamations, and songs, followed by a short and appropriate address by the presiding elder, Samuel Lugg.

PRAIRIE DU SAC, SAUK CO.

I am glad to send you the inclosed amount. We held Children's Day on two points on the circuit, at Merrimac and Sumpter, and the people were highly delighted, it being the first ever held here. It will be the opening for better collections in the future. We used the programme published by our Book Concern, with selections from "Manual."

W. H. CHYNOWETH.

At Marinette, the day was complete in its delights. The morning service was given up to addresses by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and pastor, a baptismal service, and collection for general educational work. In the evening the church was full, and many were turned away unable to gain admittance. A concert was given by the Sunday-school. The collection for the Children's Fund was above $20. The day was fine, and another Children's Day will be looked forward to with great pleasure.

MINNESOTA.

At Jackson Street Church, St. Paul, a committee met the children in the vestibule at 9:30 A. M., and furnished every volunteer to attend church and Sunday-school with a badge printed, as below, on a neat ribbon, to which a fastening pin was attached:

In Clinton Avenue Church, St. Paul, the day was a delightful occasion —crowded congregations, and a collection nearly twice that of last year. The pastor preached to the children at 10:30 A. M. At 7:30 P. M. the Sunday-school used programme published by our Book Concern.

TAYLOR STREET, MINNEAPOLIS.

Our church celebrated the children's anniversary for the first time yesterday, taking the entire day for it. The collections surprised us, reaching $10 11. I think this day ranks equal to Christmas, as Christmas chiefly reminds us of the birth of a long-ago Christ,* but Children's Day reminds us of a living, constant, ever-present Christ with "the government upon his shoulders." It is the grandest rallying-point both for Sunday-school and community that the Church has to-day. Foreign missions are situated at too great a distance from the general contributor for him to realize the return from invested money. The Children's Fund is a cogent, visible, universal influence, a living, helpful Christ, molding in the home, shaping in the Sunday-school, secularizing in the public school and the college, completing with a broad intellectual and spiritual culture. This is centralized Christianity. Those most destitute of means are most desirous for education. God calls generally, or they respond the more, the poor to proclaim the Gospel, and the Church, recognizing the needs of humanity and the calls of God, encourages in the higher walks of life. Surely this denotes a wonderful growth of Christianity when the hearts of the fathers are turned to their children, and *vice versa*. F. W. HART.

AUSTIN.

The day was observed with more than usual interest. The decorations were elaborate and very tasteful. Birds, flowers, excellent music, and happy children made the occasion inspiring. The object of the observance was made prominent. Collection, $11.

SAINT CLOUD.

Children's Day was duly observed. The church was beautifully decorated. In the morning W. M. Martin, the pastor, preached a very interesting and instructive sermon to the children who attended and filled the front part of the auditorium. In the evening an entertainment was given by the Sabbath-school, which was listened to by a large and appreciative audience. The entertainment was pronounced by all to be the best ever given in St. Cloud. The day was a grand success and one long to be remembered.

COOKSTON.

Away up in north-west Minnesota, about as near paradise (Dr. Warren's) as a person in the United States can get, we observed Children's Day. We gave the entire day to the children—had responsive and select readings and sermon to the children in the morning, and used the "Opening Century Service," with additions, at night. A heavy rain at night

* Unhappily, as generally celebrated, what is called Christmas impresses the children of these days more with nonsense about that mythical non-existent creature called Santa Claus than with truth about Christ or his doctrine.—ED.

greatly interfered and reduced amount of collection which was taken at that time. We had a good day, however—one the children will not soon forget. J. C. GULLETT.

Children's Day was happily celebrated by the church at Alexandria. A large collection for Educational Fund.

DAKOTA.

WOONSOCKET.

Find inclosed Children's Day collection from our little mission Sunday-school in this place. Our Sunday-school has only been organized a few months, and this was our first Children's Day service. The church was ornamented with flowers, enlivened with birds, and attended by a large congregation. We used your published programme, and found it a good thing. E. W. ADAMS.

In Mandan Dr. Kidder's "Century Service" was used. The church was beautifully decorated, and the service enjoyed by all; collection, $5 35. This was the first observance of Children's Day in Mandan.

NEBRASKA.

RED CLOUD.

Other services were suspended. The children were brought to the front, and rich was the entertainment they gave, scoring a grand victory for Christian education. The church was filled morning and evening. Every body seemed pleased. C. B. LENFEST.

Children's Day was celebrated at the M. E. Church, Hastings. The church was profusely decorated, and the regular programme was substantially followed. The music, furnished by a strong chorus, was especially fine. We began in the morning and finished in the evening, before crowded houses. W. R. JONES.

FIRST CHURCH, OMAHA.

We celebrated Children's Day, using the "Opening Century Service," and the pastor made an address. In the evening we had a Sabbath-school concert. We had a grand day. CHARLES W. SAVIDGE.

NORTH BEND.

Children's Day was faithfully observed for the first time in this charge. It was one of joy and gladness to the children, and will long be remembered. All were pleased and interested. S. A. BEAR.

BEATRICE.

Children's Day services were carried out in harmony with the design of the day. The church was tastefully decorated. I preached to the children in the morning, and baptized ten of the little ones. We had the "Century Service" in the evening. We are in the midst of building a $20,000 church; the Sunday-school has pledged toward it $1,000 by classes. We will do much better next year. W. K. BEANS.

RIVERTON.

Inclosed please find $8, taken as our Children's Day collection. This appointment is not self-supporting yet, and had never observed the day before. We had an enthusiastic and profitable time. Three persons subscribed the sum of one dollar each, which entitles them to one of our Historic Centenary Medals. WM. J. PITCHFORD.

At Cedar Bluffs the day was observed for the first time. Evergreens, mottoes, music, and a good programme made the day memorable.

Children's Day was observed for the first time in the history of Central City Charge, North Nebraska Conference. We used the programme in part. Two Sunday-school scholars were baptized and four received from probation. The children received the collection morning and evening. The singing was led by the young people and children, which seemed the most happy feature of the day's work. J. B. LEEDOM.

IOWA.

At Marcus the day was celebrated in a beautifully decorated church by an excellent programme and a liberal collection. That night a desolating tornado swept over the country, and the church building was torn to pieces, and lies a shapeless, total wreck.

Persons or churches disposed to aid in rebuilding that prostrate church should address: "REV. L. C. WOODFORD, Marcus, Iowa."

The services at Clinton were very largely attended, and of more than usual interest. The decorations were more elaborate and tasteful than ever before. Eight young people were baptized, and two received into full membership. It was a rarely beautiful and impressive service. An object lesson, called "The Railroad of Life," was presented by the pastor, Rev. W. F. Barclay. A splendid concert was given in the evening. The Sunday-school is the largest in the city, and constantly growing. The religious work among the young people and children is gratifying.

The day was a grand success at Clear Lake. Flowers and singing birds, happy children and a delighted congregation, and a large collection were the order of the day.

TIPTON.

I inclose you $12, the amount of our Children's Day collection. A continuous and heavy rain-storm cut down our audience two thirds and our collection one half. The collection is large in proportion to the number of givers. In the morning we carried out the "Children's Day Programme," interspersed with miscellaneous exercise, consisting of songs, recitations, etc. The evening was given to various concert pieces, recitations, and songs. In spite of discouraging surroundings the day was a success, and all are more than ever pleased with it. EUGENE MAY.

STACYVILLE.

Our Children's Day went off finely, We used the service prepared by the Board. It was highly commended. Inclosed find $10, our collection, and may God bless it for good! JOHN B. JONES.

VICTOR.

Children's Day observed with the greatest interest on part of members and children. Programme as furnished by our Church.

JOHN W. WRIGHT.

BURLINGTON.

Inclosed is $10 71, the amount of our Children's Day collection. The day was very rainy, and kept many away, but the house was about full, and all seemed to be happy. The church was decorated with the usual decorations for such occasions, and the programme sent out by the Board of Education was used in the morning. A concert was given by the school at night. A. V. KENDRICK.

A highly pleasing and instructive programme was carried out at Waukon. The pastor baptized three infants in connection with the exercises, having also his own infant son baptized by Rev. A. M. May, local elder.

The day at Atlantic was a grand success. The church was amply supplied with nice plants and flowers. Pastor Burke gave a fine address to the children in the morning. At 3 P. M. and 8 P. M. the exercises consisted of songs, recitations, and responsive readings, in all of which the children acquitted themselves grandly. A good collection was taken. Many went away unable to get in.

MISSOURI.

Rev. F. M. Doan, the superintendent, had made good preparations in the Sabbath-school of the Water Tower M. E. Church, St. Louis, for the occasion, and the children performed their part well. A good collection was taken for the fund. Two of the scholars joined the church on probation at the close of the exercises. An addition to the church building was thrown open for use for the first time. This addition has been long and greatly needed. The friends of the church have worked nobly and faithfully for it. T. H. HAGERTY.

Children's Day in the Ohio Street Church, Sedalia, was a grand day, though the rain-storm kept many at home. The decorations were very tasty. F. A. Sampson delivered the address in the morning, and Mr. Will Wharton at night, both being very appropriate and interesting. The recitations and class exercises were good. The collections amounted to $27. W. JONES.

TROY.

The occasion was of great interest to young and old, and excelled any thing of the kind ever held here. Notwithstanding inclement weather, the children turned out. The programme was used. J. J. CLARK.

In Appleton City a children's exercise was held in the morning, conducted by Mrs. Criss. In the evening an essay was read and two orations were delivered by three young men of the pastor's Sunday-school class, and excellent music was discoursed by the choir and band of the church. Collection, $8. C. V. CRISS.

BROWNING.

We celebrated Children's Day at this place Sunday morning and Monday night, the rain on Sunday evening having prevented our services at that time. The programme was excellent throughout, and as it was the first we had ever had at this place it was fully appreciated. We used the programme and a number of recitations and addresses taken from the "Manual of Hints and Helps." We celebrate at North Salem next Sunday. J. A. STILL.

WINDSOR.

We observed Children's Day at both appointments on my charge (Windsor and Green Ridge). We used the programme furnished by the Board of Education. Every body was edified and pleased. J. S. PORTER.

LEBANON.

Our Children's Day service was in every way a success. The children were enthusiastic, the old people were delighted, and almost the whole community deeply interested. Evidently this children's movement appeals to the popular heart, which gives a ready response. H. R. MILLER.

CENTRALIA.

Children's Day was one of the grandest days that Methodism has ever had here. We have a new brick church, built last year—membership, 50. "*Victory through Jesus!*" is our pæan as we march into Methodism's second century. We followed the published programme, with slight modifications to accommodate our Sunday-school. C. C. WOODS.

SPRINGFIELD.

Your Children's Day prepared lessons were the finest doubtless in the history of the Children's Day. We all met promptly at 9 A. M. The programme was carried out to the letter, and eternity will only tell the results. May God hasten the day when all the charges and stations will recognize this grand and glorious day in our beloved Zion! J. W. HILL.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD.

Our third Children's Day in the present pastorate was a grand success in every way—house packed; children and adults alike enthusiastic; collection largest ever taken. Surely the Church cannot help but be better because of this beautiful jubilee occasion. Would that we had more such days! FRANK LENIG.

The day was observed in all our schools at Jamesport. The services were delightful and the collections good. S. TAYLOR.

LOUISIANA.

Rain poured down all day, but the congregations were large, the day a success, and the collection $20. E. H. BRUMBAUGH.

GRAND AVE., KANSAS CITY.

I write you to tell you of Children's Day. The day with this church was a glorious festival of praise and blessing and giving. A good pro-

gramme had been arranged by our wide-awake and successful superintendent, Brother William H. Reed, and was carried out with enthusiasm. Addresses were made by Dr. Earl Cranston, Brother Simons, of this church, and the pastor, all to the point of the value of the Children's Fund. Then came the collection, and in ten minutes $200 had been taken in the baskets and pledged on subscription. I never saw such enthusiasm in giving, and I am sure Children's Day and the Children's Educational Fund has a stronger hold on this people than ever before. Fifteen hundred people were present at the exercises, and the day closed up most delightfully. $100 is the largest amount ever raised here before.

C. W. PARSONS.

SUMMIT STREET, KANSAS CITY.

Children's Day was duly observed, and a collection of about $50 taken.

DUNDEE PLACE, KANSAS CITY.

Children's Day was one never to be forgotten. Every thing was well arranged, and the collection was about the average.

KANSAS.

ROBINSON.

Children's Day was duly observed on Robinson Circuit. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers. The "Opening Century Service" was used, to the great delight and instruction of all. The figures indicative of the growth of the Church and her Sunday-schools, the rise and progress of Children's Day, and the Children's Fund, are such as are much needed. Father Campbell, a superannuate of this Conference, now seventy years old, said, as he listened to the exercises, "We are just now beginning to realize the saying of Holy Writ, 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast ordained praise.'" There were nine declamations by as many of the Sunday-school children, and $9 of the collection were given by Father Campbell as a compliment to the little speakers.* It was a high day in Robinson Methodism, and will long be remembered. H. A. PASLEY.

BENNINGTON.

We had a very pleasant and, I trust, also, profitable time yesterday. Children's Day here was a success, and although we did not get a large collection, I believe the interest was increased, and that Children's Day in the future will be much more thought of. B. F. HEWLETT.

WAKARUSA.

We held Children's Day services at three places on the Wakarusa Circuit. It was a grand success, every body well pleased. At Berry Creek they had never observed it before, but are interested in the work.

W. L. MORRIS.

FORT SCOTT.

I send you inclosed draft for $10, as the result of our Children's Day collections. We had three services. A sermon to the children in the

* REMARK.—The example above stated deserves to be extensively followed in other places.

morning; songs and recitations by the children in the afternoon; essays, addresses, and recitations by the young people of the church at night. It was a good day. H. V. GIVLER.

CHETOPA.

All hail, from the land of Ossawattomie! Children's Day a complete success. Pennies scarce, but here is our "mite," $6 75. Your programme in morning, and an improvised one at night. House too small for night services. I prepared for Children's Day by preaching two sermons on education on 7th inst. W. W. CURNUTT.

We observed Children's Day pleasantly and profitably at Beulah, South Kansas Conference. Collection, $8. J. C. HULL.

It was duly observed at Sedgwick, South-west Kansas Conference, with great success. The ladder exercise in the "Hints and Helps" was used, and was found to be instrumental in stimulating the several classes to greater liberality in giving. We had a crowded house at each service, and report $17 36 taken. GEO. W. AKERS.

COLORADO.

Rev. F. S. Beggs, pastor at Central City, Col., writes: "Our large church was handsomely decorated. The services in the morning consisted of music, conducted by the children, putting a floral motto in place, and sermon by the pastor. In the afternoon the regular session of school, with short addresses by Mrs. Beggs and E. Holmes. In the evening the entire services were by the children and members of the school. Our church will hold six hundred, yet it was crowded to its utmost capacity."

Handsome collections have come in from various other charges in Colorado.

NEVADA.

TUSCARORA.

Inclosed find postal money-order for $50, which is the amount of our Children's Day collection. G. W. MILLER.

WINNEMUCCA.

Our Children's Day collection reached the handsome amount of $41. G. W. JAMES.

UTAH.

OGDEN.

The amount of our Children's Day collection was $11 15. Our house was crowded and the children did finely. S. J. CARROLL.

CALIFORNIA.

Children's Day at the Central Church, San Francisco, was an occasion of great enjoyment to the school and a large number of visitors. The church was profusely decorated, and the whole programme was carried

out in a way peculiar to the efficient workers in this church. The recitations by the children showed that a great deal of pains had been taken in their preparation; and there was not an omission or a single failure on the part of even the smallest. A great deal of credit is due to Mr. Wm. Abbott and his faithful assistants. The singing by the choral society, under the direction of Mr. Morris, was finely rendered. In the evening a delightful song-service was given—subject, "The Children's Saviour." The church was filled both morning and evening. The lesson of the day, upon the children, must prove beneficial.

Children's Day at the Powell Street Church was a time of joy. The church was beautifully decorated.

PLYMOUTH.

Children's Day was duly observed with us. The circumstances in and around Plymouth are not conducive to much pleasure for the children, but yesterday's service was entered into with a hearty good-will, and was enjoyed by both young and old. We did not begin preparations in time to procure the regular programme gotten up for the day, but by going to work in earnest we succeeded in one week in getting up one of our own, which we proceeded to carry out after the regular Sunday-school lesson had been properly disposed of. The collection was the fourth article on the programme, and was taken by four bright girls of the Sunday-school, and amounted to $8. This is the first time Children's Day has been observed in Plymouth, but if it is not observed hereafter, surely it will not be the fault of the many bright boys and girls who take such an interest in the Sunday-school. C. F. WITHROW.

FRESNO CITY.

Our Children's Day, June 14, was a very pleasant and successful affair. We used the official programmes in part, and had a few recitations by the children. The collection amounted to $7, and three medals in addition.

S. J. KAHLER.

Rev. P. F. Breeze sends from Fort Street Charge, Los Angeles, a Children's Day collection of $25.

OREGON.

PORTLAND.

You will find inclosed a draft for $12, our first contribution to Children's Day Educational Fund. Grace Church was organized last October and expects to do larger things for this great interest as the years go by.

E. W. CASWELL.

Whoever, by means of the foregoing specimen accounts has formed some just idea of the Children's Day as observed this year by the Methodist Episcopal Church in all parts of the United States, will be prepared to enjoy similar reports that are to follow from foreign countries.